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President: Mr. Kerim ..... (the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Soborun (Mauritius), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 118 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/898)

Draft resolution (A/62/L.48)

Mr. Grauls (Belgium) (*spoke in French*): In adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by consensus two years ago, the international community took a decisive step. An even more important step, however, is the implementation of the commitments that we undertook, and it is to review that progress that we have come together today.

The presidency and the Counter-Terrorism Coordinator of the European Union (EU) amply illustrated in their statements — to which my delegation fully subscribes — how the EU has committed itself to implementing the four pillars of the Strategy. I should therefore like to take this opportunity to briefly complete that picture by including a number of points concerning Belgium's activities.

As a strong commitment to multilateralism is one of the pillars of Belgium's foreign policy, Belgium fully supports the initiatives and actions developed within the framework of the United Nations system and contributes to the implementation of the Organization's Strategy. In particular, Belgium has undertaken to support the efforts of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime to develop an anti-terrorist framework in several African countries. That project is a direct contribution to strengthening the rule of law and the criminal justice systems in those countries. It is an essential component of an effective and lasting strategy to prevent terrorism.

The first pillar of the Global Strategy poses the greatest challenge, owing to its complexity. That is why Belgium, also within the framework of its development cooperation policies, is contributing actively to the fight against terrorism, in particular by strengthening the institutional and governance frameworks of several African countries.

There can be no doubt that violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms can create an environment conducive to terrorist activities. The protection of those rights and freedoms is not only a moral and legal obligation; it is also in our interests and is a central element of any effective and lasting counter-terrorism strategy. Belgium has thus supported various initiatives in that area and, in particular, supports the activities of the Special Rapporteur in the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism. My country will continue to examine how it can contribute to the strengthening of that aspect through concrete action.

In that context, I should like to stress the importance of active participation by human rights

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mechanisms in the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in order to strengthen the consistency, effectiveness and complementarity of United Nations efforts. Civil society can also provide substantial expertise and contributions in that regard. That is why Belgium has already financed the projects of several non-governmental organizations in the area of protecting human rights and combating terrorism, including the Global Security and Rule of Law Programme of the International Commission of Jurists and a project developed by the International Federation for Human Rights.

Finally, Belgium welcomes the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/898) and wishes to thank the Task Force for the work that it has done to increase the coordination and consistency of United Nations action. We hope that the draft resolution to be adopted today will help to improve its institutionalization and thus lay the foundations for greater interaction between the Task Force and the General Assembly.

I should like to conclude my statement by thanking the President of the General Assembly for holding this meeting and Ambassador Rosenthal for his contribution to the success of this session.

Mr. Le Luong Minh (Viet Nam): Terrorism is a serious threat to international peace and security — an assault on the principles of law and order, human rights and the peaceful settlement of disputes. Terrorism runs counter to the principles and purposes enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. In the Outcome Document of the 2005 World Summit, our leaders unanimously declared their strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomsoever, wherever and for whatever purpose committed. Building on that historic high-level consensus, the General Assembly successfully negotiated and adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with its annexed plan of action, was a milestone in the fight against terrorism. For the first time, all States Members of the United Nations agreed to undertake a common strategic approach to combating terrorism through individual and collective steps on the four most important aspects: addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, preventing and combating terrorism, strengthening States' capacity and the role of the United Nations system, and respecting human rights and the rule of law while countering terrorism. The General Assembly also decided in 2006 to make the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy a living document by examining two years thence the progress made in the implementation of the Strategy and by considering updating the Strategy to respond to changes.

My delegation is impressed by the commitment shown and the measures undertaken by Member States as well as the United Nations system to implement the Global Strategy. We welcome the report of the Secretary-General on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy, contained in document A/62/898, and support the request that the Secretary-General submit to the General Assembly at its sixty-fourth session a report on the progress made in the Strategy's implementation.

Viet Nam has always maintained that the measures to be taken against terrorism must be comprehensive, balanced and in compliance with international law, in particular the principles of national sovereignty, territorial integrity and non-interference in the internal affairs of States. At the same time, we have emphasized the need to address the root causes of terrorism and insisted that terrorism cannot and should not be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group.

We recognize the leading role of the United Nations and the paramount importance of international, regional and subregional cooperation and coordination in the implementation of the Global Strategy. We support the establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure coordination and coherence in the work of the departments, programmes and specialized agencies of the United Nations that are providing assistance to Member States in their counter-terrorism endeavours. We look forward to further interacting with the Task Force on how best to carry out its mandates. As a member of the Security Council, Viet Nam will continue to fully support and constructively contribute to the work of the Council's subsidiary bodies with mandates in the field of counter-terrorism.

Viet Nam is resolutely pursuing a foreign policy of peace, stability, cooperation and development. We consistently support efforts towards the peaceful settlement of conflicts, upholding national independence and sovereignty, promoting development programmes,

cooperating to tackle global issues and establishing equal international political and economic relations for mutual benefit. As a friend and reliable partner of all countries striving for peace, independence, cooperation and development, the Vietnamese people and State have been making tremendous efforts to carry out the 10-year socio-economic development strategy for the period from 2001 to 2010. That will enable Viet Nam to fulfil a number of Millennium Development Goals ahead of schedule, especially those in the area of poverty reduction. We strongly believe that those policies and achievements contribute positively to the maintenance of political stability, social and economic equality and the rule of law in Viet Nam, which constitute important components of a preventive strategy against terrorism.

In the face of the emergence of contemporary international terrorism, Viet Nam is fully committed to its obligations under the relevant Security Council resolutions and multilateral and regional treaties to which it is party. In order to combat terrorism, Viet Nam is determined to strengthen the country's capacity and to develop cooperative ties with countries of the region and throughout the world. Efforts have been made to enhance the national legal and institutional frameworks against terrorism and other terrorist-related crimes. The National Assembly has included in its legislative programme the revision of our penal code as regards the definition and punishment of terrorism. In November 2007, the Prime Minister of Viet Nam adopted a directive document setting up a governmental mechanism to coordinate the counter-terrorism policies of all ministries and branches. That mechanism reports directly to the Prime Minister. An agency has also been established within the Ministry of Public Security to coordinate counter-terrorism operations in the field, including as regards training and capacity-building. Several technical assistance programmes are being developed — or are already being carried out bilaterally or through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) or such United Nations agencies as the Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Committee and its Executive Directorate — to provide Vietnamese law enforcement agencies with updated databases, technologies and experiences to deal with today's terrorism and transnational organized crime.

In 2007, we joined with ASEAN member countries to adopt the Association's Convention on Counter-Terrorism, which provides an appropriate legal framework for ASEAN cooperation in countering terrorism. We work with ASEAN countries in promoting inter-civilizational dialogue, raising awareness of and vigilance against terrorist organizations and their activities, and strengthening commitment among member countries with regard to the timely provision of information and assistance in criminal matters, including legal assistance.

Reaching consensus in adopting the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was an outstanding achievement of the international community in the fight against terrorism. To keep the agreements in the Strategy alive and to further update them in line with existing realities is a shared responsibility of Member States. It requires the United Nations system and other relevant international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as non-governmental organizations, to step up their efforts in a coordinated and integrated manner in supporting Member States. My delegation believes that we should keep on the agenda of the General Assembly an item that allows stakeholders of the Global Strategy to discuss and reach agreement on measures to further enhance the implementation of the Strategy.

Ms. Jahan (Bangladesh): The delegation of Bangladesh welcomes this opportunity to participate in the first biennial review meeting on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We align ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. We thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/62/898) on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy. We also owe our appreciation to Ambassador Rosenthal of Guatemala for his successful stewardship of the negotiations on the draft outcome document of today's meeting.

The Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is the product of much-prolonged and intense negotiations. Indeed, that was our first significant achievement in articulating a coordinated global response to the most visible security threat of our time. That gives a sense of urgency to making an initial assessment of where we stand and what we need to do globally as well as nationally.

Terrorism is not a new phenomenon. The issue has been on the United Nations agenda for many

decades. What is different today is that terrorism has assumed new and diabolical ways to kill, maim and cause massive destruction. While we note that it is urgent to mount an immediate response to terrorism, an effective medium- to long-term strategy has been lacking. An effective response should embody sincere attempts to address the root causes of the phenomenon. That includes addressing long-standing conflicts, peoples' right to self-determination, political oppression, social and economic marginalization, and victimization.

In order to successfully implement the plan of action of the strategic framework, all those issues should receive focused attention from the international community. A lopsided response is bound to yield incoherent results. Similarly, an unqualified and indiscriminate response to terrorism may often be counterproductive. Such measures obscure the fact that counter-terrorism and the development of a culture of peace and tolerance are interrelated.

Terrorism is all pervasive. Terrorism is indiscriminate with respect to race, religion, culture or faith. Any attempt to associate terrorism with any particular nation, culture or religion is grossly wrong and unacceptable.

We at the United Nations need to keep the issues focused on the priorities. We should work to fulfil the agreed development goals, as economic exclusion provides fertile ground for extremist elements. We need to refocus the global debate on victims' rights, building capacity to strengthen the rule of law and the promotion of good governance.

We maintain that the United Nations has a central coordinating role to play in organizing international efforts to counter terrorism on the basis of the relevant resolutions adopted by the General Assembly and the Security Council. A number of mechanisms have been established at the United Nations in the past few years in response to terrorism. They include a number of sanctions committees established pursuant to Security Council resolutions, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. Those entities were established on the basis of individual requirements and for specific actions. Creating a multiplicity of entities with limited mandates is not necessarily the best way to provide a coherent response to terrorism. The Task Force, for instance, does not have any institutional relationship with any intergovernmental body. It is also severely under-resourced. Consequently, little if any input flows to the General Assembly, depriving it of the scope to discuss actions of the Task Force.

The fact that the Task Force lacks a secretariat does not allow Member States to receive the assistance they need in implementing the Global Strategy. We would therefore stress the importance of institutionalizing the Task Force. We also welcome the proposed interaction between the Task Force and the General Assembly through briefings and reports, as set out in draft resolution A/62/L.48 before us.

The pending comprehensive convention on international terrorism should be finalized by addressing the issue of State terrorism. It should contain a legal definition of terrorism in the first place. While elaborating the Convention, we must make a distinction between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples under foreign occupation to self-determination and to struggle for independence.

Turning to the national level, let me reiterate that Bangladesh unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. We believe that no act of terrorism should be condoned because of its circumstances, method or objective. At the same time, we believe that the root causes of terrorism should be addressed. International efforts to combat terrorism would be more effective if we were to address conditions of prolonged and unresolved conflicts, political exclusion and socio-economic marginalization, and to promote sustained economic growth.

Bangladesh is a pioneer in promoting a culture of peace and ethnic and religious tolerance. Numerous development programmes — including ones relating to microcredit, the empowerment of women and non-formal education — have been undertaken to address poverty and socio-economic disparity. We have also pursued motivational measures to halt the abuse of religion as a pretext for undertaking acts of terror. Religious leaders, including imams, have played an instrumental role in that regard. We have also promoted interfaith and intercultural dialogue, and our media have played an important role in raising awareness against terrorism and extremism.

At the regional level, Bangladesh, as a party to the relevant regional conventions, remains determined to combat cross-border crime and terrorism. Bangladesh, as a State party to all 13 United Nations

conventions and protocols on terrorism, has adopted a number of legislative and administrative measures that are in line with the four pillars of the plan of action of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

We have worked with delegations from the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate to fine-tune Bangladesh's counter-terrorism readiness to international levels. In order to address the financing of terrorism, the Money Laundering Prevention Act of 2002 has been amended as the Money Laundering Prevention Ordinance of 2007. A financial intelligence unit has been established in the anti-money-laundering department of the central bank of Bangladesh. We are still in the process of enacting enabling legislation and modifying relevant domestic laws.

The menace of terrorism cannot be fought in an isolated manner by any single State. We would therefore like to see a holistic approach to our global fight against terrorism. We feel that technical cooperation and international financial assistance in combating terrorism are still not adequate to allow developing countries to meet their challenges, in particular least developed countries. We would therefore urge that the necessary technical and financial resources be geared up to that end for the effective implementation of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Mr. Maurer (Switzerland) (*spoke in French*): At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for the energy and interest he has devoted to the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in the course of the past year. I would also like to thank Ambassador Gert Rosenthal of Guatemala for his excellent work; the Secretary-General for his report (A/62/898); and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for all its work. Switzerland will continue to cooperate closely with the Task Force and to support efforts to further institutionalize it and to increase its resources so that it can appropriately carry out its tasks.

I should also like to draw the Assembly's attention to the position paper that Switzerland has circulated in the Hall along with its statement.

The Strategy provides a comprehensive framework for a coherent international response to terrorism. It reminds us that, in order to be effective, the global fight against terrorism must focus on non-military tools and be based on the Strategy's four pillars. My Government would like to expand dialogue with the Task Force and its working group on integrated strategy implementation. We would like to explore ways for Member States to improve cooperation with the United Nations system and among themselves in order to improve integrated implementation.

In addition to national efforts undertaken by Swiss authorities, I should like to refer to some examples of Switzerland's contribution to the integrated implementation of the Strategy.

Beginning last year, Switzerland has provided financial support for several activities of the Task Force's working group on tackling the financing of terrorism. We have also contributed to its work by deploying a group of experts. Furthermore, Switzerland has facilitated the holding of meetings between the relevant Task Force stakeholders and representatives of the private sector to foster public-private partnerships in the fight against terrorism. In addition, Switzerland cooperates closely with the different counter-terrorism subsidiary bodies of the Security Council and supports them in the fulfilment of their tasks.

Switzerland has also provided support for the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime project on strengthening the legal counter-terrorism regime. In that context, I am pleased to announce that, on 15 October 2008, Switzerland will deposit its instruments of ratification or accession to the four most recent universal conventions and protocols against terrorism. We thereby hope to be among the first States to have ratified all 16 United Nations conventions and protocols against terrorism.

Through the Strategy, the General Assembly aimed to ensure that fair and transparent procedures exist for the listing and delisting of persons and entities on the Consolidated List maintained by the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999), as well as for the granting of humanitarian exceptions. To that end, Switzerland — together with the Governments of Denmark, Germany, Liechtenstein, the Netherlands and Sweden — has proposed that an effective review mechanism be established within the Security Council. As the Assembly is aware, the Court of Justice of the European Communities yesterday rendered an important judgement on the review of the internal lawfulness of Community measures implementing

sanctions of the Security Council. It decided to annul the Community regulations violating the fundamental rights of complainants. We regret that discrepancy between the decisions of the Security Council and the requirements of European Union law in terms of the protection of fundamental rights. We shall attentively follow the consequences of that judgement, in Europe and elsewhere, and will continue our efforts to find a solution.

I would like to reiterate the importance of strengthening capacity-building measures for the effective implementation of the Strategy. Since 2003, Switzerland has funded security assistance and counter-terrorism capacity-building programmes in various countries and regions. For example, in Afghanistan we have financed the establishment of an electronic payroll management system and a gender mainstreaming programme for the Afghan National Police.

Last year, in order to complement the various Global Strategy implementation activities, Switzerland joined Costa Rica, Japan, Slovakia and Turkey and, with the support of the International Center on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, launched an international process on global counter-terrorism cooperation. In the course of this year, experts from Governments, relevant United Nations bodies and other multilateral institutions, as well as non-governmental organizations from various regions, have discussed ways of strengthening the Strategy's four pillars in an effort to step up and better balance its implementation. The final document presented by the sponsors on 24 July 2008 to the wider membership of the United Nations reflects the key elements of the discussions that took place. It contains 19 proposals for improving the implementation of the Strategy. Copies of that document are available in English, French and Spanish at the back of the Hall. Allow me to highlight four issues that were repeatedly addressed during the process in the past year.

First of all, the importance of better linking United Nations efforts with national efforts was emphasized continuously throughout the process. There was a sense that national counter-terrorism coordinators and focal points from capitals should meet periodically to discuss concrete Strategy-related issues with the Task Force, assess Strategy implementation efforts, determine policy direction and consider how the United Nations could support national efforts. Such meetings, which could be organized by the United Nations or by individual States and take place in different regions, should include the diverse array of Strategy-related stakeholders, including members of the Task Force and regional and subregional bodies. The Government of Switzerland is willing to consider supporting specific activities of the Task Force or meetings that would allow for an exchange of views between the United Nations system and national counter-terrorism coordinators or focal points.

Secondly, the point was repeatedly made that there is a need to broaden Member State participation in United Nations counter-terrorism policymaking. The second paragraph of the process' final document provides a number of proposals aimed at addressing this issue. Those range from strengthening the informal briefings that the Task Force already provides, to the establishment of a new counter-terrorism body or open-ended working group, to the more frequent use of existing forums, such as plenary meetings of the General Assembly.

Thirdly, as the implementation of the Strategy moves to the next phase, it is important to engage both traditional and non-traditional counter-terrorism actors within the United Nations and at the national level.

Fourthly and lastly, regional and subregional bodies and civil society have essential roles to play in implementing the Strategy that have yet to be fully explored and fully carried out.

In conclusion, it is widely acknowledged that the adoption of the Strategy was a significant political achievement that must be not only preserved but also built upon, both during the September review and beyond. The Strategy provides Member States an opportunity to develop more holistic approaches at the national level to combating terrorism.

What are the challenges ahead? The final document of the international process that Switzerland and other countries have sponsored could provide a basis for immediate and future efforts. Based on the discussions in the process, it appears that three broad areas merit further consideration. They include, first, the cooperation of entities with different legal status throughout the United Nations system; secondly, the issue of the governance architecture for such a system; and, thirdly, the relationship between Member States and secretariats of the different organizations.

Switzerland, of course, remains fully committed to tackling those important issues.

Mr. Wenaweser (Liechtenstein): At the outset, I would like to reiterate Liechtenstein's strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomever, wherever and for whatever purposes. We are fully committed to international cooperation in the fight against terrorism, and in particular to the leading role of the United Nations in that regard.

We would like to join other speakers in thanking Ambassador Rosenthal of Guatemala for his excellent work in facilitating the negotiations on the draft resolution (A/62/L.48) on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We note with satisfaction that the draft resolution reaffirms the Strategy and its four pillars in their entirety. That underlines the historic and integral character of the Strategy, which continues to serve as the central guide for all United Nations activities in the fight against terrorism.

While much of the discussion leading to the consensus on this draft resolution has focused on the role of the United Nations Secretariat, the primary responsibility for implementation lies with Member States. Liechtenstein continues to take all the necessary measures at the domestic level to implement all international standards related to counter-terrorism and to facilitate international cooperation in that area. Earlier this year, Liechtenstein ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and two of its protocols. The ratification of the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism is in preparation, as are legislative reforms regarding the implementation of international sanctions regimes and related international cooperation.

Every effort is made to ensure that the Liechtenstein financial centre is not abused for illegal activities, such as the financing of terrorism in particular. The Government is actively following up on the recent assessment carried out by the International Monetary Fund and is pursuing the implementation of the third Money-Laundering Directive of the European Union, as well as the Financial Action Task Force's Recommendations on Terrorist Financing. Liechtenstein also supports a number of specific international projects in the area of counter-terrorism and has made substantive contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Programme against Terrorism in particular.

While the primary responsibility for implementation rests with us, the Member States, a broad range of United Nations actors are involved as well. Many of those activities — in particular in the area of conflict prevention and resolution, development and the promotion of human rights — do not necessarily carry the label of counter-terrorism but still form an integral part of the Strategy. Others pertain to the core of international counter-terrorist cooperation. We commend the Secretariat's Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for its invaluable efforts in bringing coherence and coordination to those activities. We are confident that the Task Force will continue to work with Member States in a spirit of transparency and cooperation. We recognize the Task Force's efforts in that respect.

The United Nations plays an important role in almost all areas of international cooperation against terrorism, but it has particular authority over, and responsibility in, ensuring that such activities are carried out in a manner that respects human rights and fundamental freedoms. The multiple manifestations of terrorism that the world has experienced in recent years have challenged States and international organizations to devise appropriate responses in conformity with the rule of law. The draft resolution before us today calls upon all United Nations entities to continue to facilitate the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

Liechtenstein will continue to contribute to those efforts and that dialogue, in particular as regards the Security Council's efforts to ensure that fair and clear procedures exist for placing individuals and entities on sanctions lists. Like my Swiss colleague before me, I would like to refer to the judgment rendered yesterday by the European Court of Justice, which is highly important in that regard. The topic requires our enhanced focus and attention, and we hope that the Security Council will make the necessary adjustments in its current practice to safeguard the basic tenets of due process.

In that connection, I would like to remind delegations of our invitation to participate in a seminar on targeted sanctions and the rule of law, to be held jointly by the American University Washington College

of Law and the Government of Liechtenstein on 15 September in Washington, D.C.

In conclusion, I would like to commend the Secretary-General's initiative to hold an international symposium on the victims of terrorism at United Nations Headquarters next week. All too often in responses to terrorist attacks, the plight of the victims plays only a secondary role and their rights remain unaddressed. We hope that that initiative will be a step in the right direction.

Mr. Wolff (United States of America): The United States welcomes the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The unanimous adoption of the Strategy by the General Assembly at its sixtieth session marked the first time that all United Nations Member States had agreed on a common strategic approach to fighting terrorism. The Strategy represents a pragmatic, action-oriented approach to that end.

Today, global terrorism remains one of our greatest collective challenges. It affects the lives of all peoples and all nations in both direct and indirect ways. No geographic region is immune. The recent terrorist attacks specifically targeting United Nations offices in Algiers and United Nations officials underscore the need for all Member States to work together to support the General Assembly's counter-terrorism efforts.

The success of the review is a testament to the resiliency of our collective will to battle terrorism, and the United States welcomes it. The United States remains strongly committed to supporting the efforts of both the General Assembly and the Security Council to that end. We appreciate the hard work that has gone into producing a thoughtful and balanced document. We believe that the review will enhance the overall United Nations counter-terrorism programme. We especially appreciate the efforts of the facilitator, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala. He has done a superb job working with Member States to achieve unanimous support for the draft review resolution.

The United States strongly supports the central role of the United Nations in the global fight against terrorism and wants to strengthen the Organization's ability and the resolve to play a constructive and effective role. The United States views the creation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force as a key milestone in the international effort to eliminate terrorism. We must ensure the full and effective implementation of the Strategy.

We must also continue to cooperate with the counter-terrorism Committees of the Security Council to ensure that our obligations under the Charter are fully implemented and that those Member States having the will, but not the capacity, to fulfil those obligations receive the help that they need to do so.

We appreciate the efforts of the Secretariat to set up the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, which has moved to mobilize the United Nations and its constituent agencies to identify concrete deliverables under each of the four topical pillars of the Strategy. We call on those Member States that are in a position to do so to respond to the call of the Task Force for contributions.

To that end, the United States has provided a voluntary contribution of nearly half a million dollars to support the working groups of the Task Force. Additionally, we have provided extensive responses to the working groups' requests concerning radicalization and extremism and countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. We call on the Task Force to continue to engage Member States on its work by providing information and updates on the working groups' activities.

The engagement of the United States in support of the Strategy is structured for the implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy. We recognize the need to build Member States' capacity to meet international counter-terrorism standards. The United States has funded numerous cooperative and capacity-building initiatives to help partner nations to better address terrorism, with the long-term goal of reducing conditions conducive to terrorism.

In 2007 alone, we conducted 266 training activities and technical consultations, including more than 4,500 participants from 64 countries and emphasizing law enforcement under the rule of law and respect for human rights. We have offered extensive counter-terrorism finance capacity-building efforts on a regional and bilateral basis in 45 countries through our counter-terrorism finance training programme. We have provided border security training and capacity-building in 20 countries through the Terrorist Interdiction Program.

In addition, the United States is focused on increasing economic development by helping Member States to tackle poverty, unemployment, weak institutions and corruption. That can help to reduce the recruiting pool for terrorists. As a complement to our own bilateral efforts, we support the holistic approach to countering terrorism embraced in the Strategy and reaffirmed in the review. If we, as Member States, are to be successful in our common struggle against terrorism, we must work together with our growing networks of partners in a strategic and coordinated manner.

While we think that the Security Council should continue to play a key part in the efforts of the United Nations, many others in the United Nations system can and should make contributions to the broader counter-terrorism effort, whether it concerns capacity-building, education, economic development or helping to address the underlying conditions that terrorists and extremists exploit.

The effectiveness of United Nations efforts to manage and reduce the terrorist threat will depend to a large degree on improving the coordination among the various parts of the United Nations counter-terrorism programme and ensuring that all relevant United Nations bodies and organs are focused on making practical contributions to the global effort. To that end, we believe that the United Nations Strategy should remain focused on identifying concrete ways in which the various parts of the United Nations system can contribute to the global counter-terrorism campaign and ensure the necessary degree of cooperation and coordination to maximize synergies and avoid duplication of work.

The Strategy brought together the efforts of the principal organs of the United Nations. Each has an important role to play in coordination with the others, but a balance must be maintained to ensure that the expertise of those bodies is used to the maximum degree of efficiency in United Nations counter-terrorism activities. We believe that a key objective of the Strategy is system-wide coherence, and the Task Force should continue to stress cooperation among all the United Nations offices that can support counter-terrorism efforts within their mandates. That approach recognizes that diverse United Nations programmes can provide a useful impetus to efforts to address terrorism. We believe that all programmes can and should play vital and meaningful roles in the fight against terrorism.

The United States once again thanks the Secretary-General and his team for their hard work in facilitating the completion of the review process. We look forward to hearing the views of others and to reports of great progress in our collective effort.

Mr. Al-Allaf (Jordan) (*spoke in Arabic*): Today, we are meeting once again, united in our condemnation of terrorism, that scourge that constitutes an aggression against humanity as a whole and a global problem that should be tackled jointly by all of us. In that vein, the Assembly adopted the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by resolution 60/288.

Jordan condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of its perpetrators and purposes. It believes that terrorism is an international scourge that should be uprooted and eradicated through concerted international efforts, since terrorism does not recognize any borders or belong to any homeland or country. Hence, we emphasize our rejection of attempts to link terrorism with any group, ethnicity, culture, religion or civilization.

Eradication of terrorism cannot be achieved solely by deterrent security and military measures, but rather through addressing underlying political, economic, cultural and social causes. Here we should like to stress the need to respect the rule of law and human rights in the international and national fight against terrorism.

Mrs. Waffa-Ogoo (Gambia), Vice-President, took the Chair.

Jordan attaches great importance to today's meeting to review the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and highly appreciates the efforts made by His Excellency the Permanent Representative of Guatemala to achieve the draft resolution (A/62/L.48) on the Strategy.

Jordan has taken a number of measures at all levels to combat terrorism. At the level of national legislation, Jordanian law has defined terrorism within the penal code. In 2001 the Government adopted a law amending the penal code of Jordan, by virtue of which severe punishment is imposed on any action legally deemed to be a terrorist act. That law contains provisions that criminalize, punish and ban illegal groups engaged in criminal or terrorist acts. People

who assist and support such groups suffer the same punishment. In the field of border control, Jordanian Law of Customs No. 3 of 1998 gives Customs personnel the capacity and competences of investigating magistrates to investigate smuggling, be it of people or prohibited materials, in addition to imposing stringent and improved oversight on all borders and checkpoints.

The Government of Jordan has adopted numerous measures to confront cyber-terrorist attacks. At the executive level, after the Security Council adopted the counter-terrorism resolution 1373 (2001), the Government took a number of measures, issuing instructions to all banks to audit their clients' accounts and to freeze any assets the Government required them to, as well as special directives on money-laundering. Identity cards and passports are issued in accordance with international criteria to prevent falsification of those important documents.

Jordan also cooperates with INTERPOL and many friendly countries in the fight against terrorism through bilateral agreements and security cooperation. Security organs monitor the purchase and sale of hazardous substances and raw materials in order to prevent them being used for terrorist acts. We have also acceded to a number of international anti-terrorism conventions, and we are now studying acceding to other international anti-terrorism conventions and agreements.

Mr. Gwozdecky (Canada) (*spoke in French*): The fight against terrorism is a priority for Canada at the national and international levels. The protection and security of its citizens is the most fundamental role and the most important obligation of a Government. Terrorism is a direct threat to our way of life and our fundamental values — democracy, respect for human rights, the rule of law and the peaceful resolution of conflict.

The threat posed by terrorism transcends national borders, which means that no State can undertake that fight alone. The United Nations, as the sole international organization to have a fully global mandate and having itself been the target of terrorists, must fight against terrorism while continuing to promote the rule of law and respect for human rights.

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy marked an important step in reaffirming the commitment of the United Nations to fight terrorism. Moreover, the adoption of the Strategy demonstrated that the General Assembly could act decisively to confront today's international challenges.

(*spoke in English*)

The two-year review of the Strategy provides an opportunity to reaffirm our joint commitment to the Strategy and to enhance its implementation worldwide. While the Strategy is an expression of our collective concern and commitment, responsibility for its implementation lies primarily with Member States.

Since 2006 Canada has made significant efforts to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, both nationally and internationally. Canada has ratified 12 of the 13 United Nations conventions and protocols on terrorism, and has signed and is working towards the ratification of the thirteenth — the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. We have invested significantly in law enforcement, security intelligence, and transportation and border security. Canada's Parliament has actively debated and passed several key pieces of legislation to strengthen its national counter-terrorism legal framework.

In keeping with our strong belief that respect for human rights and the rule of law must be at the centre of both international and national efforts to fight terrorism, Canada has consistently sought to balance human rights and national security in all of its counter-terrorism efforts. Civil society has an important role to play in that regard, and Canada has enacted a number of measures domestically to engage civil society in a dialogue on counter-terrorism issues.

Internationally, we continue to collaborate with a broad range of bilateral partners on a range of counter-terrorism issues and to work in multilateral and regional forums such as the Organization of American States, the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the African Union to enhance their ability to fight terrorism within their respective mandates.

Emphasizing the primary role of Member States, the Strategy's plan of action focuses on the need for effective capacity-building to develop State capacity to prevent and combat terrorism. Since 2006, Canada's Counter-Terrorism Capacity Building Program has invested significantly in a range of projects to enhance the abilities of partner countries to fight terrorism. In

particular, Canada's contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime have enhanced the Organization's efforts to encourage the ratification and implementation of the universal instruments against terrorism. Canada is also working closely with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED) to better channel its capacity-building assistance throughout the world. We are encouraged by the new strategic vision and leadership of CTED, which is confirming its pre-eminent role in New York.

In addition to national efforts, entities within the United Nations system must also continue to enhance their efforts to implement the Strategy. The Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force has a special role to play in that regard. Canada supports the Task Force's role in coordinating the contributions of United Nations system entities to Strategy implementation. We urge the Secretary-General to allocate funding to that initiative in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Strategy itself, as outlined in resolution 60/288. We applaud the important work that the Task Force has done to date and the proactive manner in which representatives of various United Nations entities have approached their task. That said, the time has now come for greater interaction between the Task Force and its working groups with Member States. Canada is interested in working with the Task Force to enhance that interaction in coming months.

Canada fully supports the draft resolution that is before us today. We would like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Rosenthal and his team for taking on the difficult task of facilitating the negotiations and for leading the process in so efficient a manner. We were delighted to see so much support for the Strategy during the negotiations and to hear so many calls for further implementation.

In closing, allow me to add that Canada intends to do its part to continue to implement the Strategy in the coming two years and beyond. We will continue to enhance our own domestic framework to fight terrorism; we will maintain our efforts at the regional level through continued engagement with regional organizations; and we will enhance our multilateral efforts through better cooperation with CTED, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Task Force. We are convinced that there will be much further progress to report in two years' time.

Mr. Carmon (Israel): At the outset, allow me to thank the President of the Assembly for convening this important meeting on a subject that is so close to the heart of every Israeli citizen. Israel's delegation is honoured by the presence here earlier today of the Secretary-General and the President of the Assembly, lending the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy the high profile it deserves. We would also like to commend the Permanent Representative of Guatemala for his relentless efforts to reach a consensus on the important draft resolution that will be adopted later.

In order to utilize our time more effectively, I will present only part of our prepared remarks. For the full version, I encourage representatives to read the distributed text or visit our Mission's website.

I would like to emphasize the importance Israel attributes to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a comprehensive and holistic instrument that highlights the different aspects of the fight against terrorism. Indeed, as terrorism is a universal phenomenon that threatens international peace and security, only a joint effort by all Member States, international and regional organizations and other relevant actors can effectively eradicate that danger. The four pillars of the Strategy represent this multipronged approach to fighting terrorism, and they should be implemented in a comprehensive manner in order to achieve our common goals.

The State of Israel has been challenged by terrorism from its very beginning. Israelis and Israeli interests have been the target of terrorist attacks abroad, along our borders to the North and South, and in the very heart of the country. That unique and unfortunate history has put our country at the forefront of the fight against terrorism. Over decades, Israel has developed legislative and operational tools to support its counter-terrorism activities. Since the most important task now before Member States is to fully implement the Strategy, I would like to share with this Assembly some of my country's experience gained in those efforts.

The State of Israel is committed to fully implementing its obligation to take the measures necessary to prevent and combat terrorism. In that regard, Israel is currently drafting a new comprehensive anti-terrorism law and is engaged in an ongoing process to ensure that all domestic legislation

conforms to the international instruments dealing with terrorism. Those instruments and Israel's domestic laws together provide a solid foundation for the Government's counter-terrorism activities.

The Strategy correctly emphasizes the need for cooperation at the bilateral, regional and international levels. Israel is a donor country, and part of our international cooperation involves sharing our knowledge and expertise to build State capacity in other nations. Israel also supports the Strategy's emphasis on regional cooperation and has ongoing cooperative relationships such with regional and multilateral organizations as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the European Union in the field of counter-terrorism. The Government is also developing a cooperative relationship with the Organization of American States. On the international level, Israel is looking into avenues of cooperation with the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate.

Cooperation is not limited to Government mechanisms alone. Israel's International Institute for Counter-Terrorism, an academic think tank, is cooperating with many partners around the world. One example of an Institute project is an upcoming seminar being conducted for officials from the Horn of Africa. Other examples of private initiatives in the area of counter-terrorism are provided in our written statement.

Terrorism is an evolving menace. Likewise, the response of the international community must be flexible, with the ability to quickly and effectively adapt to any new form the threat may take. On the technical side, Israel is taking advantage of innovations in identity verification and is in the process of replacing national identification cards and travel documents with new biometric cards, which will be much more difficult to duplicate.

Technological advances, however, will not provide all the tools we need; the political will to address incitement through education and public awareness programmes that encourage respect for all faiths is also required. In adopting the Strategy, Member States committed themselves to promoting a culture of peace and respect for all religions. States and other relevant actors must work to end deliberate radicalization, in particular of youth.

One example of such a project in Israel was initiated by our new Permanent Representative, Ambassador Gabriela Shalev, in her previous capacity as the head of an academic institution. That unique project, which began last year, brings together leaders from the nation's major religions — Jewish, Muslim, Druze and Christian — in a programme leading to a law degree. The weekly meetings at Ono Academic College provide a venue for serious interfaith and intercultural dialogue. Since the students are also leaders of high standing in their faiths, they bring home their newfound knowledge and understanding of other religions to share with their respective communities.

Israel recognizes that the promotion and protection of human rights is an essential component of the Strategy. It is a matter of principle that, in spite of the constant terrorist threat against Israeli civilians, national security considerations cannot justify unlimited restrictions on human rights. In that regard, it should be emphasized that all aspects of Israel's counter-terrorism activities are subject to the rule of law and to judicial review. That principled approach is evident in numerous decisions handed down by the country's Supreme Court in recent years dealing with different counter-terrorism measures.

Finally, the victims of terrorism must not be overlooked. The Global Strategy calls for national programmes to assist victims and for an international campaign condemning terrorism. Israel has in place a comprehensive system, led by the Social Security Service, which is responsible for compensation and social, medical and psychological support for victims of terrorism and their families. While the Government has an important role to play, non-governmental organizations and civil society are also active in the field, complementing state functions.

In conclusion, all States are well aware that terrorism knows no boundaries. We must build a global cooperative network to act effectively against the threat. The State of Israel therefore calls on all nations to join in that fight and to address all elements of that struggle with equal dedication. Israel is ready to join any other nation in that effort.

Ms. Grace (Australia): The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006 was a significant achievement for the General Assembly, as Member States united to take action on one of the most pressing threats facing the international

community today. Australia warmly welcomes the reaffirmation of the Strategy by the General Assembly, and we remain committed to implementing the Strategy's plan of action in its entirety.

For Australia, multilateral action through the United Nations system is a vital element of our international strategy to address terrorism and violent extremism. In that context, we welcome initiatives by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure overall coordination and coherence in counter-terrorism efforts at the United Nations.

Australia also strongly supports the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate to build global counter-terrorism capacity by engaging donors and matching their capabilities with the priority needs of recipient countries.

We also note with appreciation the work that the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime has been undertaking in South-East Asia and the Pacific to promote the ratification and implementation of the international counter-terrorism conventions and protocols.

In addition to action through the United Nations system, it is important to remember that we, as Member States, have primary responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy. Since 2001, Australia has introduced a range of important measures aimed at protecting Australians and Australian interests. Australia has fully implemented its obligations to freeze terrorist assets under Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999) and 1373 (2001) and successor and related resolutions. We have also now ratified 13 of the 16 international counter-terrorism instruments of universal application and are currently assessing the legislative changes necessary to implement the remainder.

The evolving and persistent nature of the terrorist threat calls for a long-term international strategy built on sustained delivery of counter-terrorism assistance. Australia's counter-terrorism priorities to date have been in South-East Asia, where Australians and Australian interests have been subject to direct attack, and in the Pacific, where Governments may require assistance from regional partners to meet their international counter-terrorism obligations. We are looking to expand our counter-terrorism cooperation in South Asia.

Our regional approach to tackling the terrorist threat centres on a sustained programme of building mutually beneficial cooperation through counter-terrorism capacity-building. There is now an increasing convergence in the understanding of the threat and our approaches to countering it between Australia and its regional partners. We believe that the efforts of the South-East Asian region may provide useful lessons for other Member States in implementing the Strategy at a regional level. We will be looking to build on those achievements in our broad region.

I would like to take a moment now to highlight one of those initiatives. Established in close partnership with Indonesia, the Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation is recognized as a model for counter-terrorism and law enforcement cooperation. The Centre has developed a reputation across South-East Asia as an institution which provides very effective and practical training and which fosters development of cooperation and networks between officers of regional agencies. The Centre has now trained over 3,000 law enforcement and legal officers.

Another key concern for all of us is the threat of terrorists acquiring and using chemical, biological, radiological or nuclear materials in an attack. To reduce the risk of such materials falling into the hands of terrorists, it is important that we have in place robust physical and legislative measures. Accordingly, Australia has assisted a number of regional countries in developing the laws and regulations required to implement United Nations conventions on the protection of nuclear materials and to improve the security of radiological, nuclear and laboratory biological materials.

Terrorists thrive in an atmosphere of ignorance and distorted ideas, which make it easier to sow discord and to split communities from one another. The Strategy recognizes the importance of that ideological dimension to countering terrorism and encourages initiatives and programmes to promote dialogue, tolerance and understanding among civilizations, cultures and religions.

Australia welcomes the Secretary-General's Alliance of Civilizations initiative as a complement to the ongoing interfaith activities taking place in our own region. Domestically, we have implemented a national action plan to strengthen social cohesion, harmony and security. Australia is working with regional Governments,

non-governmental organizations and community groups to rebut extremist propaganda and to reinforce shared values based on tolerance, non-violence, respect for human dignity, diversity and pluralism.

Australia co-sponsors a regional interfaith dialogue alongside New Zealand, the Philippines and Indonesia. Those meetings bring together representatives from the diverse faiths in our region to promote harmonious relations between their communities. Australia is a strong supporter of that process and has offered to host the next dialogue.

Respect for human rights and the rule of law is the fourth and final cornerstone of the Strategy. We cannot effectively counter the threat of terrorism by using the same methods as terrorists. Counter-terrorism measures must be accountable and subject to the rule of law. In that context, Australia recognizes that the United Nations vital role to play in advising Member States on ways to counter terrorism consistent with their obligations under international law, with particular regard for international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law.

As we go forward, Australia anticipates engaging further with United Nations agencies on all those issues and contributing what we can of our experience towards a shared approach by the world community to eliminating the scourge of terrorism from the world stage.

Mrs. Núñez Mordoche (Cuba) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Cuban delegation would like to express its appreciation to the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We would also like to praise the efforts of the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, to facilitate the informal consultations on the draft resolution on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The Cuban delegation wishes to ratify the importance of the Strategy, which was adopted by the General Assembly, the principal and most democratic organ of the United Nations system. That document must become the main instrument to guide our global struggle against the scourge of terrorism, which has claimed so many innocent lives throughout history.

The fight against terrorism is an issue of crucial interest and importance to the Cuban Government and people. As has been extensively documented, for over 45 years the Cuban people have been the victim of countless terrorist acts, conceived through the hatred and irrational desires of an international Power that has never abandoned its attempts to end the economic, political and social system that we have chosen in exercise of our right to self-determination and independence. The policy of State terrorism and sabotage waged by that Power against our people has taken a very heavy toll in human lives and economic damage.

Cuba reiterates its firm commitment to combating terrorism and defending multilateralism. It affirms its strongest condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, by whomever, against whomsoever and wherever committed, regardless of their motivations, including those in which States are involved.

Aware of the high responsibility that we all bear in the fight against terrorism and committed to the multilateral efforts to end the scourge, the Cuban delegation participated in the consultative process on the draft resolution (A/62/L.48) on the review of the Strategy.

Regarding the review of the Strategy, the Cuban delegation believes that there are some issues that could be settled in the future. There should be clear functioning mechanisms for the working groups created by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. In addition, interaction between the Task Force and the Member States should be strengthened, as should the specific mechanism to be used to that end. The Cuban delegation welcomes the institutionalization of the Task Force, as reflected in the draft resolution to be adopted by the Assembly.

Cuba fully rejects the exploitation of the fight against terrorism as a pretext to justify interference in the internal affairs of other States, aggression and the breach of the national sovereignty of States. Terrorism is a phenomenon that must be countered by the entire international community, in an environment of close cooperation and with due respect for the Charter of the United Nations and international law.

Finally, I should like to reiterate the firm and iron willingness of the Cuban Government and people to cooperate in the multilateral efforts to put a definitive end to all acts, means and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Oyarzún (Spain) (*spoke in Spanish*): On behalf of the Spanish delegation, I should like to express my appreciation for the organization of this meeting to consider the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its plan of action. I should also like to thank Ambassador Rosenthal for his work as facilitator of the consultations on the draft resolution, and particularly Mr. Robert Orr, Chairman of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force of the Secretariat, and his team for their work throughout this process. My delegation also associates itself fully with the statement read out by the Permanent Representative of France on behalf of the European Union.

Two years ago, the General Assembly took a step forward when it adopted by consensus the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in which Spain played an important role. It is now the responsibility of us all to promote its effective implementation at the national, regional and global levels. Spain is firmly committed to the fight against all forms of terrorism, whatever their motivation, and is convinced that multilateral action is an indispensable tool to fight the global threat of terrorism and must be legitimized by strict respect for obligations under international law.

In that context, my delegation would like briefly to describe the main actions Spain has undertaken to develop the four pillars of the Strategy, some of which were already presented here last December by Ms. María Teresa Fernández de la Vega, First Vice-President of the Spanish Government, on the occasion of the informal meeting that the General Assembly held on the same theme as today's.

First of all, Spain considers of great importance the adoption of measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, as highlighted in part I of the plan of action of the Strategy. In that regard, it is important to emphasize Spain's commitment to conflict prevention, peacebuilding and peacekeeping, as well as its role as sponsor of the Alliance of Civilizations initiative, a platform that promotes dialogue among civilizations, religions and cultures against any kind of radicalization.

Likewise, I must highlight Spain's efforts to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, which have led to a substantial increase in our official development assistance over the past four years, from some 0.2 to 0.5 per cent of our gross domestic product. A significant portion of that aid is directed towards the strengthening of institutions and to developing the rule of law, channelled through a number of technical assistance projects, mainly in Latin America, the Mediterranean region and Africa.

At this point, we cannot fail to stress Spain's commitment to the victims of terrorism, or the political and financial support it has given to initiatives adopted in that area within the United Nations, as well as in the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Organization of American States, among other forums. Spain has organized seminars and meetings in several regions in order to spread the message of solidarity with victims of terrorism, defend their dignity and delegitimize terrorism.

The first international symposium on supporting victims of terrorism to be held at United Nations headquarters on 9 September holds great significance for Spain. We hope that it will lead to fruitful dialogue between Governments, victims' associations and civil society, and to the exchange of best practices among States, and that it will also prepare the way for the adoption of practical mechanisms of solidarity by the international community, such as the future establishment of a victims assistance fund, which we have always supported.

With regard to measures to prevent and combat terrorism, I am pleased to highlight the fact that Spain has ratified the 16 United Nations conventions and protocols that represent the legal basis for the measures in the fight against terrorism. Moreover, Spain is one of the main promoters of judicial cooperation in the European Union through Eurojust; it makes significant contributions to OSCE and to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, and has negotiated numerous bilateral agreements on judicial assistance and extradition.

Spain is also working towards the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Spain is a member of the Financial Action Task Force of the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development and an observer in other regional groups connected with the fight against the financing of terrorism. It also participates in multiple international initiatives in such areas as document security, the fight

against drug trafficking, and the illicit trade in nuclear, chemical, biological, radiological and other potentially lethal materials to prevent them from falling into the hands of terrorists.

With regard to measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism and to strengthen the role of the United Nations system in that regard, Spain was the first contributor to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and provides financial support to the technical assistance programme carried out by the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

On another front, Spain has also participated in initiatives to analyse and spread the content of the Strategy in different regions, such as the recent sixth Asia-Europe Meeting that took place in Madrid in April 2008, and finances numerous technical assistance programmes in regional and sectoral organizations and institutions, such as the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism, the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism, the OSCE Office of Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Intergovernmental Authority on Development, the Counter-Terrorism Action Group of the G8, the International Atomic Energy Agency and the Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons, among others.

Finally, in order to implement the chapter on measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism, Spain has undertaken various legislative initiatives, such as the ratification of the Optional Protocol to the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, which has already entered into force. Spain also fully supports the work carried out by the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights and of the Special Rapporteur of the Human Rights Council on the promotion and protection of human rights in the fight against terrorism. Spain is firmly convinced that respect for human rights and the rule of law must constitute the foundation and the limits of any State action in the fight against terrorism.

Spain is fully committed to active multilateralism to combat terrorism and believes that the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy represents a valuable instrument with which to counter that global threat. Spain will continue to work towards the consolidation and development of an international legal framework in that regard, which should lead us towards a future comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

In relation to other territorial contexts, Spain will contribute to the development of the European Union Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its plan of action, and will foster initiatives during the next Spanish presidency of the Council of Europe, as it did during its presidency of OSCE in 2007, in order to improve the mechanisms for cooperation with regional organizations in Latin America, Africa and Asia. We will endeavour to reach the same objective at the bilateral level with all countries committed to the fight against terrorism.

Defeating terrorism within the framework of strict respect for international law constitutes a challenge for the international community. To achieve that goal, we will have to count on the firm commitment and cooperation of all actors, and the implementation of the Strategy could be the right path to achieving that. We cannot afford to squander this opportunity.

Mr. Al-Barout (United Arab Emirates) (*spoke in Arabic*): At the outset, I would like to thank the President of the Assembly for organizing this important meeting and to express my gratitude to the Secretary-General and the special facilitator, the representative of Guatemala, for their efforts to strengthen the vital role of our Organization in terms of counter-terrorism. I would also like to express my support for the statements made by the representatives of Kuwait on behalf of the Arab Group and of Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Despite the substantial efforts of the United Nations over the past four decades, in terms of both resolutions adopted by the Assembly and of measures taken by the Security Council against terrorism, terrorism remains a very serious threat. It continues to have devastating effects on its direct targets, on the security, stability and interests of States, and on development plans. We therefore need to ensure, today more than ever, that we strengthen our regional, international and multilateral efforts to remove the obstacles preventing us from eliminating that dangerous phenomenon.

The United Arab Emirates welcomes and supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy as a common international strategic approach that is the ideal framework for the fight against terrorism. Despite that, we believe that the Strategy is encountering difficulties because there has been no in-depth objective analysis of the root causes and the conditions that lead to terrorism. There is also no uniform international legal definition of terrorism to distinguish between the legitimate right of people to fight aggression and occupation, and terrorism per se. We must develop international instruments that would require us objectively and effectively to review, in a balanced and transparent manner, the phenomenon of terrorism and forge an international consensus on a definition of terrorism.

While we commend the outcome of the Interfaith Dialogue Conference, held in Madrid in mid-July under the auspices of the sisterly Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the King of Spain, I would like to underscore the primary responsibility of States to implement the Strategy by adopting political and legal measures to prevent and fight terrorism in all its forms. We call upon States to do the following.

First, they must fully and non-selectively implement the provisions of the Strategy in order to determine weaknesses and shortcomings that prevent its implementation and to create strategies to tailor it to new realities.

Second, they must adopt institutional measures allowing them to work with the working group of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and to ensure transparency and balance in its review process. While focusing on the need to promote and galvanize the necessary resources for the Task Force, we should also enhance the pivotal role of the United Nations in ensuring implementation of those goals of the Strategy. To that end, we welcome the efforts of the Secretary-General to institutionalize the Task Force within the Secretariat.

Third, they must implement technical assistance and training programmes, in particular for developing countries, without discrimination, so that they can build their national counter-terrorism capacities.

Fourthly, so as to avoid furthering xenophobia and terrorism, they must underscore once again that terrorism must not be linked to any religion, nationality, civilization or specific ethnic group, thereby undermining, jeopardizing or instigating the undermining of religions.

Fifthly, they should establish an international counter-terrorism centre under the auspices of the United Nations.

Sixthly, they must underscore the need to respect the rule of law and human rights within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, linked to the principles adopted under the Strategy.

Seventh, the United Nations, its main bodies and the various influential and concerned parties need to assume their full responsibilities towards the resolution of political conflicts and regional and international conflicts, ensuring credibility and objectivity, so that peaceful and preventive international action can be maximized so as to prevent this phenomenon of terrorism from spreading and, to prevent creating favourable circumstances that lead to it.

At this time the United Arab Emirates, convinced that terrorism is one of the greatest transnational challenges of the twenty-first century, reiterates its commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and resolutions, particularly Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1267 (1999). Those documents reflect the policy of the international community, which is developing the comprehensive measures that were adopted to fight the phenomenon in all its aspects, for example developing certain legislative texts that criminalize illegal activities and acts related to terrorism, such as the national law of 2006 against cybercrime and the law of 2004 against all kinds of terrorist-related crimes, which governs the freezing of assets of suspect persons.

Moreover, the United Arab Emirates continues to develop its national bodies that are related to the fight against terrorism and its legislation criminalizing the trafficking of drugs and small arms and light weapons, the use of mercenaries, and the illegitimate use of natural resources. What is more, a number of educational and information outreach programmes have been adopted as to raise people's awareness with respect to the phenomenon of terrorism.

However, the United Arab Emirates, convinced that the fight against terrorism will not be successful if a State tackles it alone, has ensured that it has

strengthened cooperation with friendly and brotherly States and with regional and international organizations, specifically INTERPOL, so as to track down criminals and exchange information on transnational crime and terrorist elements. It is also cooperating with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the relevant Security Council committees working within that framework and has acceded to a number of bilateral, regional and international conventions, initiatives and treaties. For example, it has ratified the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the 2007 treaty against terrorism of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism and other conventions.

In conclusion, while the United Arab Emirates commends the efforts of the Secretary-General to hold an international symposium on supporting victims of terrorism, it would like to underscore the need not to politicize the goals of that symposium or to confuse that kind of meeting with our biannual review of the Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The United Arab Emirates hopes that that debate will lead to concrete, positive outcomes and conclusions with respect to the implementation of the goals of the Strategy and to the aspirations of our peoples with regard to their security, stability and development.

Mrs. Picco (Monaco) (*spoke in French*): The Principality of Monaco shares the sentiments expressed by the Secretary-General in his report (A/62/898). Terrorism is an attack against humankind and a heinous tactic adopted by cowards. In no case can it be justified.

Two years ago, we adopted specific measures to fight terrorism by adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Capacity-building should continue to be the cornerstone of global efforts to fight terrorism. Promoting the exchange of information, building networks to promote cooperation between States and pool best practices, as well as raising public awareness with regard to the threat of terrorism remain key issues.

Monaco has always been very active in the fight against terrorism in all its aspects. The Principality is a party to the body of relevant universal instruments in force. Its legislative and regulatory system has been updated, and Monaco has actively participated in the exchange of information on the fight against terrorism and its financing.

In 2006 the Government of the Principality adopted a law on terrorism that defines new offences of acts of terrorism and strengthens law enforcement concerning existing offences committed in circumstances leading to terrorist acts. That law introduces a relatively broad definition of the notion of complicity by criminalizing aiding and abetting a perpetrator of a terrorist act by providing housing or any other means of subsistence or assistance. In addition, the Government of Monaco recently strengthened the law of 7 July 1993 on the participation of financial organizations in the fight against money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Moreover, the authorities of Monaco welcome the technical assistance on legal questions and issues related to capacity-building provided by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) within the framework of its global project to strengthen the legal regime against terrorism. In that context, in July 2008 Monaco was host to a conference on the fight against terrorism within the United Nations system. That conference more specifically reviewed the phases of establishing a universal system of law and the means to implement it at the national level, with a view to strengthening international cooperation. At that meeting, the UNODC stressed the prevention of terrorism through a global fight against separate offences, such as the financing and plotting of and incitement to a terrorist act. Prevention is fully within the framework of the recommendations of the Global Strategy, which advocates dealing with the threat universally.

I would be remiss if I concluded my statement without thanking the Counter-Terrorism Task Force for the work it has undertaken and without commending the efforts of Ambassador Rosenthal and his colleagues with respect to the draft resolution (A/62/L.48) that we shall adopt as the outcome of our debate. However, we regret that that document does not take into account the position of the victims of terrorism worldwide.

Mr. Staur (Denmark): The French presidency has clearly outlined the position of the European Union. Denmark would like to align itself fully with the statement and to reinforce some general points based on its own experience.

What the General Assembly agreed upon in 2006 was, in our view, a landmark decision. For the first time ever, it united all Member States behind a common and comprehensive strategic framework for fighting terrorism. The Strategy is an instrument of consensus on an issue on which consensus has been notably difficult to reach. It was a truly remarkable achievement — a process that is worth not only reviewing, but actually celebrating, two years later. As is so often the case, the real challenge lies in turning wise words into efficient action — action that makes a difference on the ground and helps to eradicate terrorism. In that sense, the focus in this review is, quite rightly, on implementation.

There is now a universal recognition that we need to look at a broad range of issues and causes to counter terrorism. They include socio-economic marginalization, deficiencies when it comes to good governance and the rule of law, and violations of human rights and restrictions on fundamental freedoms. Dealing with all those elements, the Strategy offers countries the broad-based, long-term framework that is needed not only to thwart and respond to terrorist attacks, but also to address socio-economic conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and to the violent radicalization of local populations. Addressing those conditions must be an inherent and vital component of a successful strategy to defeat terrorism.

As rightly noted in the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/898), the Strategy is valuable in highlighting the link between the traditional development agenda and the fight against terrorism. If international cooperation to assist developing countries in building up their resilience against terrorism is to be effective, we need to overcome a recurrent hesitation to combine the development and security agendas.

Including counter-terrorism capacity-building as an aspect of development programmes is a delicate but nevertheless important task. Our national experience as an important donor country shows that it is possible. The interface is quite obvious in the area of good governance, where the development and security agendas converge. Not only will a lack of good governance impede development; it is also one of the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Key organizations in this area, such as the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, must therefore continue their efforts to facilitate dialogue on the development-security nexus at both the national and international levels.

In preparation for this review, Denmark commissioned a study exploring those interlinkages, entitled "Study to Identify Good Practices of Development Assistance in Support of Counter-Terrorism Capacity-Building in Developing Countries". Copies of the study are available outside the Hall. The findings, which were presented at a seminar held in New York in July, contain recommendations for countries, donors and the United Nations system that, we hope, can inform the work ahead of all of us in implementing the Strategy.

The study includes some important findings for future implementation; let me briefly mention a couple of them.

First, countries' ownership of the process is essential if we are to successfully counter terrorism. Unless international resolutions calling for the combating of terrorism are perceived by countries themselves as relevant and important and are translated into national policies and plans, there is little chance that international cooperation will be effective, that it will have impact and that it will be sustainable. Efforts should therefore be undertaken to promote national development plans or poverty reduction strategies that recognize the links between development and security.

The second point regards the need to improve policy coherence at the national level to enhance the effectiveness of our efforts and avoid unnecessary duplication at all levels.

In preparing for this review, we have, together with the Centre on Global Counterterrorism Cooperation, also undertaken an analysis of the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in East Africa. It reflects Denmark's long-standing commitment in that region. The study of the East Africa experiences concludes that significant capacity gaps and vulnerabilities continue to exist. Therefore, nearly every part of the United Nations system represented in the Task Force has an important role to play in such developing regions, where implementation gaps exist.

A stronger, more visible United Nations presence is needed, together with more efficient coordination of all actors involved. The division of labour and cooperation with relevant regional organizations must

be sorted out. Civil society must be involved more effectively and consistently if counter-terrorism efforts are to be successful. Against that background, I would like to echo a key recommendation of the report on East Africa: we must agree on clear guidelines as to what specific tasks regional and subregional bodies and civil society can perform in furthering Strategy implementation, with a clear division of labour among stakeholders and with priorities and timelines for action.

While the goal of countering terrorism is globally shared, questions have been raised about the means used. In global public opinion, there is a perception and a concern that, in some cases, efforts to strengthen law enforcement and other security-related counter-terrorism capacities have led to human rights violations and to the oppression of civil society. The rulings issued by the European Court of Justice this very week reminded us once again of the need to ensure that the instruments we use to fight terrorism, such as targeted sanctions, are in full compliance with human rights standards and reflect due-process guarantees. If they are not, we will undermine the legitimacy of our fight and thus its efficiency. Fighting terrorism and protecting human rights are by no means conflicting goals. The notion of a trade-off is false; rather, the two goals should be seen as complementary and mutually reinforcing.

The report of the Secretary-General for this meeting makes it clear that much has happened in terms of the Strategy's implementation since its adoption. The principal responsibility for implementing the Strategy unquestionably lies with Member States. The United Nations system must, however, continue to play its part. Twenty-four entities — most of them United Nations bodies — are included in the Task Force and its working groups. In all honesty, while noting the important work done, we also need to recognize that, so far, efforts have focused to a large extent on understanding and mapping the challenges. To a lesser degree, that has yet to be translated into concrete action on the ground.

We therefore, like others, welcome the institutionalization of the Task Force, as provided for in the draft resolution to be adopted on this occasion (A/62/L.48). It is crucial that our resources match the tasks before us. The current arrangements are not sustainable.

While progress has been achieved in our common fight against terrorism and in implementing the Strategy, important challenges remain in many areas, including fully safeguarding human rights when fighting terrorism and promoting efficient international counter-terrorism cooperation. If we are serious in our commitment to fight terrorism, we must make progress before the next review, two years from now.

Mr. Jurica (Croatia): First of all, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this plenary meeting to examine the progress made since the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its Plan of Action were adopted by the Assembly two years ago. I also express my appreciation to the facilitator, Ambassador Rosenthal, for leading the process of negotiations on the outcome of this meeting. We welcome the draft resolution (A/62/L.48) as agreed upon by all delegations and believe that it represents a solid basis for the future implementation of the Strategy.

My country, Croatia, has aligned itself with the statement delivered earlier today by the French presidency of the European Union and fully supports the main messages contained therein. However, I should like to provide members with a brief account of Croatia's implementation of the Strategy at the national, regional and international levels.

First, I would like to reaffirm the importance that we attach to the Strategy as one of the major documents in the global fight against terrorism. It is important that all countries and other relevant stakeholders stand in unity and show a firm commitment to the full and integrated implementation of the Strategy, while taking account of the delicate balance among its four pillars.

The Strategy describes broad and diverse measures under the first pillar. In that regard, Croatia is involved in a number of regional activities with the aim of preventing or suppressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Croatia has been active in promoting intercultural and interreligious dialogue in close cooperation with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization and other regional organizations. In particular, Croatia has contributed to intensifying regional dialogue in South-East Europe at the highest level, thus creating an atmosphere of good-neighbourly relations. Moreover, in May this year,

Croatia became a member of the group of friends of the Alliance of Civilizations.

Croatia is also active within the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and the Council of Europe. Croatia hosted the 2nd OSCE Tolerance Implementation Meeting on education to promote mutual respect and understanding and to teach about the Holocaust, held in October 2006 in Dubrovnik. Croatia also participates in the OSCE Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights hate-crime training programme for law enforcement officers. Croatia has ratified several Council of Europe conventions on the prevention and financing of terrorism and the Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, concerning the criminalization of acts of a racist and xenophobic nature committed through computer systems.

Terrorism is a complex and serious threat to international peace and security, as it attempts to undermine the core values of the modern world. Terrorism poses a challenge to our security, to the basic principles of democratic societies and to the rights and freedoms of our citizens. Terrorist acts are criminal in nature and cannot be justified under any circumstances. We highly appreciate all efforts in the global struggle against terrorism. Therefore, under the second pillar of the Strategy, Croatia has undertaken a wide array of measures in order to prevent and combat terrorism, in particular by denying terrorists access to the means to carry out their attacks.

Croatia is party to all 16 international legal counter-terrorism instruments. In addition, a number of regional and bilateral agreements have been signed or ratified establishing cooperation between law enforcement and intelligence agencies. Croatia has fully harmonized its legislation with the European Union's Council Framework Decision on combating terrorism of 'une 2002.

Croatia has also intensified its cooperation with INTERPOL and the European Union in the field of enhancing border security and control of lost and stolen travel documents. In June 2007, Croatia became the first INTERPOL member country to provide police units with direct secure access to INTERPOL's databases via mobile phones and laptops.

As a contribution to the NATO Partnership Work Programme, and in close cooperation with the Euro-Atlantic Disaster Response Coordination Centre, Croatia's National Protection and Rescue Directorate organized a consequence management field exercise, IDASSA 2007. The United Nations Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs was also actively involved. One of three scenarios included a response to a terrorist threat using biological agents on board a passenger plane.

Under the third pillar of the Strategy, Croatia supports the activities of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force responsible for ensuring a comprehensive and coordinated approach in implementing the Strategy, as comprehensively elaborated in a report by the Secretary-General. My country also welcomes the initiative for its further institutionalization.

The ever-evolving terrorist threat demands that Governments achieve the highest levels of efficiency, which is possible only through proper education and training. Croatian authorities have enjoyed constructive cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime in Vienna, its Terrorism Prevention Branch and the OSCE by actively participating in their various counter-terrorism conferences, workshops and seminars. Similar events have also been organized at the national level for the purpose of educating law enforcement officials, State attorneys, judges and customs officers.

We further agree that capacity-building is a core element of the global counter-terrorism effort. Therefore, we have to assist those countries that are committed to implementing the Strategy and other counter-terrorism obligations but do not have the necessary resources.

As a non-permanent member of the Security Council, Croatia has assumed the important responsibility of chairing the Counter-Terrorism Committee. In that respect, we have invested much effort, in close coordination with other members and with valuable assistance from the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate, to ensure more efficient and transparent work of the Committee, with enhanced focus on its role as a facilitator of technical assistance.

Regarding the fourth pillar, Croatia has ratified a large number of international treaties and set up the necessary domestic measures to ensure full respect for human rights and a national criminal justice system based on the rule of law. The protection of the highest human rights standards stems from the Croatian

Constitution, and any measures taken to combat terrorism comply fully with our obligations under international law.

Finally, I hope that today's meeting will show renewed commitment on the part of all participants to the Strategy and thereby reiterate the consensus of the international community in fighting the scourge of terrorism, which has been rightly described in the report of the Secretary-General as a heinous tactic adopted by cowards and an attack against humankind.

Mr. Urbina (Costa Rica) (*spoke in Spanish*): Allow me to begin my statement by thanking the President for convening this timely meeting and the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, Mr. Rosenthal, the facilitator of the negotiations on the draft resolution. I would also like to express my gratitude for the preparatory work undertaken by the Secretariat, in particular Mr. Robert Orr's tireless work on this very important subject.

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy sent a clear message that a coherent and systematic means must be found to counter the scourge of terrorism. It was a resounding message regarding the need to move beyond immediate and pressing responses, which have been primarily led by the Security Council, and to develop an operational framework that will make it possible for the international community and the United Nations system as a whole to address the conditions that generate terrorism, promote international cooperation to address it, and help its victims. All of that must be accomplished in stringent respect for the rule of law and human rights.

Costa Rica will report today on its activities in implementing the Strategy and share its vision regarding the challenges that we must confront in combating terrorism.

The main challenges that must be overcome by those of us who have not been direct victims of terrorism are inertia, indifference and the temptation to believe that terrorist acts will target only developed countries or those who have supposedly provoked such attacks. It would be a mistake to believe that terrorism is rational when it certainly is not. If it were, how could we explain the brutal attacks against United Nations staff in a number of different countries? Such a careless approach and such erroneous premises ensure that the efforts of many States to confront and combat terrorism are often not given due priority.

Furthermore, in environments of limited resources and growing needs, it is becoming difficult to reach political agreements to channel the resources necessary to counter terrorism. Nonetheless, in recent years, my country has participated in regional and international initiatives to facilitate effective responses in the fight against terrorism and has established inter-institutional mechanisms for the domestic fulfilment of our obligations to the global community.

At the international level, together with Slovakia, Japan, Turkey and Switzerland, we are developing the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation. That initiative has facilitated a dialogue in which, without detriment to national or institutional positions, options have been discussed to facilitate and improve the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The recommendations produced by the Process with the support of the Centre on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation are undoubtedly an important contribution to the discussions and decisions to be taken as a result of the review of the Strategy.

Two years ago, all States Members of the Organization affirmed that the promotion and protection of human rights for all and the rule of law are essential to all components of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Accordingly, we asserted that the adoption of effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights should not be conflicting goals, but complementary and mutually reinforcing.

Today, regrettably, independent sources tell us of a huge gap between the guarantees set out in the Strategy and the actions of States and the United Nations system itself in combating terrorism. In the name of security, actions and laws are being justified by those who previously would have criticized them. Euphemisms and legal sleight-of-hand to justify torture are becoming commonplace, together with arbitrary measures and extrajudicial detentions.

Costa Rica reaffirms that good intentions must be matched with deeds. We must not give in to the temptation to set effectiveness in combating terrorism at odds with the guaranteed respect for and promotion of human rights. The dilemma is not whether we can be effective in combating terrorism while respecting

human rights. Indeed, no such dilemma exists; we do not have to choose one or the other. The challenge is how to link the two processes in such a way as to ensure that anti-terrorist measures are effective and, at the same time, that they comply with human rights and fundamental freedoms.

That should form the basis of our collective fight against terrorism, as we agreed in adopting the Strategy. We must overcome the mindset of fear, abandon the notion of an endless war without rules and instead promote a broad-based approach that enables us to respond effectively to so grave a threat to the peace, security and development of all our peoples.

The United Nations cannot afford to see its legitimacy eroded in the fight against terrorism. It is particularly worrisome that a number of United Nations activities to combat terrorism are being questioned in legal terms as violating fundamental freedoms. The Security Council and its permanent members in particular must shoulder their responsibility and undertake a broader and more serious review of the mechanisms for imposing and lifting sanctions in order to ensure that they conform to the minimum requirements of due process. In our capacity as an elected Council member, we acknowledge that some steps have been taken in the right direction but that much remains to be done. Costa Rica appeals to everyone to translate the guarantees set out in the Strategy into reality.

The lack of agreement on a definition for terrorism is, and could continue to be, a result of the restrictions on fundamental rights and guarantees in the guise of anti-terrorist actions. After more than eight years of discussions, the world is calling for a clear agreement defining what terrorism is and, by extension, what it is not. Here, the General Assembly must shoulder its responsibility. The time that is passing without such a definition is undermining the foundations of the rule of law at the national and international levels. Costa Rica reaffirms its readiness to continue to cooperate in the building of an early consensus in that regard and reaffirms that, with creativity and good faith, we must overcome the obstacles that have thus far prevented us from reaching such a necessary agreement.

Ms. Graham (New Zealand): New Zealand is unequivocal in its condemnation of terrorism in all its forms. We are determined in our efforts to prevent and combat terrorism, including through our strong support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We were particularly pleased that the Strategy received unanimous support when it was agreed upon two years ago.

There is much commonality between the principles espoused under the four pillars of the Strategy and those that guide New Zealand's approach. Domestically, we are determined to take all the necessary measures to prevent and combat terrorism and to ensure that our country is neither a target nor a source of terrorist activity. We continue to improve our legislative, policy and operational capabilities. We amended our Terrorism Suppression Act last year to improve our compliance with the evolving international counter-terrorism framework.

Internationally, New Zealand is actively assisting partner countries in developing their counter-terrorism capabilities. New Zealand has helped to build capacity in Pacific island countries to meet the requirements of the international counter-terrorism agenda. We convene and chair the annual Working Group on Counter-Terrorism, involving officials from the 16 countries members of the Pacific Islands Forum. We are encouraged by the progress made in the Pacific, and we welcome the support of a number of United Nations counter-terrorism bodies in helping to achieve it.

In South-East Asia, the threat of terrorist attacks persists despite the progress made by law enforcement authorities, and New Zealand continues to support a number of counter-terrorism capacity-building initiatives in the region.

Recognizing that the threat of international terrorism requires a comprehensive, multilayered and long-term response, New Zealand has increasingly pursued initiatives aimed at addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. We believe the United Nations-led Alliance of Civilizations has real potential to improve relations and understanding between societies and cultures. Last year, New Zealand hosted an Asia-Pacific regional symposium to discuss how our region might take forward the Alliance's recommendations in the areas of youth, education, media and migration. We have embarked on a series of significant and long-term projects in our region. This year, New Zealand produced a national plan of action, which we have found a very useful undertaking, and

we would encourage others to consider developing plans to guide their own activities.

New Zealand is also promoting interfaith dialogue through co-sponsorship of the Asia-Pacific Regional Interfaith Dialogue, by supporting developing country attendance at regional meetings and by hosting the third Dialogue in New Zealand in 2007. By managing the increased diversity of our societies better, we put ourselves in a much stronger position to counter negative stereotyping and radicalization, which can lead to violent extremism.

Further afield, New Zealand is making a significant contribution to stabilization and reconstruction operations in Afghanistan as part of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF), including leading a provincial reconstruction team and providing training for the Afghan National Army and Police. New Zealand supports ISAF's comprehensive approach to Afghanistan, which advocates a balance between security, governance and development interventions. New Zealand also continues to support Operation Enduring Freedom through the deployment of our naval vessels to the maritime interdiction operation in the Persian Gulf region.

Terrorism is a global phenomenon and as such requires a coordinated global response. The United Nations, through the work of the Assembly, the Security Council, its committees and other bodies, is best placed to coordinate that response. New Zealand has supported that work through contributions to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime for counter-terrorism legislative assistance and criminal justice training in the Pacific and South-East Asia. We welcome the efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to achieve greater coordination across the United Nations system and to promote best practice approaches to Member States.

New Zealand remains steadfast in its commitment to all measures to combat and prevent terrorism and to ensure that such measures are consistent with human rights and the rule of law. We look forward to working closely with partners in our region and beyond to further implement the Global Strategy, thereby helping to ensure that all our citizens are free from the threat of violent extremism.

Mr. Majoor (Netherlands): Allow me to start by saying that the Netherlands stands behind the European Union interventions. In addition to that, I would like to make a number of observations, from a national perspective, on the implementation of our counter-terrorism policy.

Before that, I would like to thank Assistant Secretary-General Robert Orr and his Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for their excellent work on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We also commend the work of Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, who serves as the facilitator for the draft resolution on this subject.

At the presentation of the "Uniting Against Terrorism" report (A/60/825), which led to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the former Secretary-General aptly described the relationship between terrorism and human rights. He said:

> "Defending human rights ... is a prerequisite to every aspect of any effective counter-terrorism strategy. It is the bond that brings the different components together. That means the human rights of all — of the victims of terrorism, of those suspected of terrorism, and of those affected by the consequences of terrorism." (*A/60/PV.78, p.3*)

Dutch counter-terrorism efforts have always been characterized by a multifaceted approach. It is imperative to strike the right balance between repressive and preventive measures. A counter-terrorism policy that relies solely on repressive action will not halt the radicalization processes that make people more susceptible to recruitment by terrorist organizations. Having worked with partner countries over the past five to eight years, we have learned that intervening early in the radicalization process is a key component of successful counter-terrorism.

Dutch initiatives on this issue involve promoting dialogue between international experts and policymakers. In October 2007, politicians, experts and scholars from around the globe, including Mr. Orr, gathered in The Hague to discuss strategies to counter radicalization. The conference centred on the exchange of best practices and the urgent need for a platform for continued consultations on that issue.

In April 2007, 25 experts on international humanitarian law, human rights and criminal law met, also in the Netherlands, to discuss human rights and counter-terrorism. In both cases, the experts came from Europe, the United States, the Arab world and Asia.

Different legal systems were represented at that meeting. The aim was to take stock of current statutory restrictions on fighting terrorism and to explore new ideas for legal solutions to those restrictions. The experts concluded that the legal systems represented there could play a relevant role in the debate on the place of international law in the fight against terrorism.

The Netherlands is strongly committed to building on the conclusions of both meetings, to exploring the options for strengthening the international legal framework to allow for new legal solutions and to institutionalizing the exchange of best practices related to countering radicalization.

We would welcome all efforts to bring agreement on a definition of terrorism closer. The Netherlands stands ready to consider ways to break the deadlock in the negotiations on the United Nations comprehensive convention on terrorism. Now is the time to make some serious headway and demonstrate the resolve of the international community.

The Netherlands would like to see the masterminds of international terrorism brought before a court of law. If domestic jurisdiction is not adequate, we may need to make use of the potential of the International Criminal Court. The Rome Statute would allow for such an interpretation in situations where the offences in question fall within the Court's jurisdiction — for example in the case of crimes against humanity.

The Netherlands has taken a great interest in the adoption of Security Council resolution 1822 (2008), renewing and updating the sanctions regime against the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Although several commendable changes were made to the system, we believe that improvements are still necessary. Yesterday's judgement of the European Court of Justice in the Kadi case, in which the Court ruled that Mr. Kadi's fundamental rights were not respected when he was included in the United Nations list, shows that it is essential to improve the due process safeguards of the United Nations system of targeted sanctions, if only to avert possible difficulties in implementing the sanction measures within European Union member States in the future. The establishment of a review panel, for example, could be a step in the right direction towards creating a more effective judicial review within the sanctions system.

At the beginning of this year, we were confronted with one of the issues regarding due process safeguards — the issue of delisting — when a court of appeal in the Netherlands acquitted six suspected terrorists of committing a criminal offence with terrorist intent. As a result, at the initiative of the Netherlands, the European Council removed the individuals concerned from the list.

The Netherlands also attaches great importance to improving border security. A great deal has been done within the EU to improve the quality of border controls in order to curtail the movements of potential terrorists. New technology, such as biometric travel documents and automated visa information systems, as well as the second generation of the Schengen Information System, will give us new tools to crack down on the cross-border movements of potential terrorists. At the same time, the Netherlands is determined to maintain an appropriate level of data protection and privacy for all its citizens.

The Netherlands warmly welcomed the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in 2006, and since that time it has supported the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and individual Member States and regional organizations in implementing the Strategy. We have contributed to measures to build the capacity of States to prevent and combat terrorism and to ensure that the rule of law and the universality of human rights are respected. The Netherlands has also supported the activities of the Task Force to tackle radicalization. We are committed to continuing our efforts in the years ahead, together with all other Member States and relevant United Nations organizations.

As Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon once said, "success should be measured by the way challenges are addressed". Let us now, together, address the challenge lying ahead of us to look beyond repressive measures and find a successful approach to counter terrorism that respects both human rights and the rule of law.

Mr. Salicath (Norway): An integrated and long-term approach to the fight against terrorism must consist of both preventive and combative measures. If we fail to take a long-term perspective in our fight against terrorist groups today, we may face new, stronger terrorist groups with greater popular support tomorrow. We risk undermining our own goals. Moreover, respect for democracy, human rights and

international law must be a mainstay in all our efforts to combat terrorism.

The United Nations has a particular responsibility for coordinating global efforts against terrorism. It is important to strengthen the Organization's role in order to ensure that international efforts are endorsed and followed up by the whole world community. Strengthening the role of the United Nations will also help to ensure that those efforts are as closely coordinated and integrated as possible in both the short and long terms.

The adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy two years ago was a milestone in our common endeavour to prevent terrorism. It is the responsibility of the Member States to implement the Strategy, and the role of the United Nations is to assist Member States with implementation, if needed.

The decision to establish the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to coordinate the various efforts of the United Nations agencies in that respect was a wise one. We have supported the Task Force and will continue to do so. The Task Force has a unique opportunity to further a balanced approach to the implementation of the Strategy, with equal attention to all its four pillars. In our view, it is important that the Task Force be given the necessary resources. It is also important that Member States interact with the Task Force on a regular basis. We believe that this could best be done in informal meetings where briefings and reports on its current and future work are exchanged and the work on Strategy implementation is assessed.

I would like to add that the regional organizations have an important role to play in complementing and supporting the efforts of the Member States to prevent terrorism and take part in the global initiatives of the United Nations. I would like to highlight the work being done by the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and the Council of Europe in that respect. Nevertheless, we must not lose sight of the fact that the Member States have the primary responsibility to implement all four pillars of the Global Strategy.

In the Strategy, we have committed ourselves to ensuring that all measures taken to counter terrorism comply with our human rights obligations and the rule of law. In it, we recognize that effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not conflicting, but complementary and mutually reinforcing goals. Norway still strongly believes that that is the case.

It is Norway's firm view that an effective and holistic response to terrorism should have a firm basis in criminal justice and be guided by the normative framework provided by the universal legal regime against terrorism and respect for the rule of law and human rights. That being said, it is of grave concern to us that the various United Nations bodies and offices still report serious human rights violations in the fight against terrorism.

One effort that has been successful in a number of Member States is the demobilization and deradicalization of terrorists. We have advocated that the United Nations should contribute to those efforts and have initiated activities in the analysis of that subject. Thus, we organized a meeting in New York on 22 April concerning a project called "Leaving Terrorism Behind". I am therefore very pleased to read, in the Secretary-General's report of 7 July (A/62/898) on the implementation of the Strategy, that the working group on addressing radicalization and extremism will provide a summary of options in that field that States could consider integrating into their national and regional deradicalization strategies.

Mr. Andrianarivelo-Razafy (Madagascar) (*spoke in French*): The delegation of Madagascar supports the statement made by the representative of Guinea on behalf of the Group of African States and would like to express its recognition to the Secretary-General for his excellent report, which reflects the efforts made by Member States as the primary players in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy: the United Nations system, in its capacity as a body with global competence, through its various bodies; and the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force in a supporting role.

Madagascar welcomes the progress that has been made by the various bodies of the United Nations system since the adoption of the Strategy, as described in parts II and III of the report of the Secretary-General (A/62/898) on measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism and measures to prevent and combat terrorism. My country welcomes the initiative of the Secretary-General in establishing the Task Force within the United Nations system to

guarantee the coordination and consistency of all actions conducted against terrorism.

Two years have passed since the international community decided to step up and continue its work in the fight against terrorism. The unanimous adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006 marked a historic step forward by the international community in its unfailing determination to counter terrorism, a scourge that constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security and hampers the economic and social development of States.

The Strategy, a unique instrument based on Member States' robust and unequivocal condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, contains a plan of action for its comprehensive implementation and is an important basis for future activities to counter that global phenomenon. In that regard, Madagascar welcomes the holding of the Vienna Symposium in May 2007 as an exceptional opportunity for Member States not only to promote the comprehensive implementation of the Strategy, exchange information and reaffirm their commitment to combating terrorism, but also to learn of the firm resolve of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to provide technical assistance to States in need with the support of the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate (CTED).

In that context, the delegation of Madagascar wishes to express its gratitude for the efforts made and the dedication shown by the relevant bodies of the United Nations system, including the United Nations Development Programme, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the International Maritime Organization and the International Atomic Energy Agency, without forgetting to thank the members of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and the CTED for their dynamism and their tireless efforts to eliminate the scourge.

Madagascar remains convinced that effective implementation of the Strategy depends on subregional, regional and international cooperation and on the provision of adequate technical and financial assistance. In that regard, my delegation wishes to express its deep gratitude to UNODC for its assistance, which has enabled Madagascar to hold workshops and to participate in regional seminars and conferences on counter-terrorism.

My country welcomes the holding, in Antananarivo in January 2008, of a national workshop on the formulation of a draft text on extradition and legal cooperation, which is currently being finalized, and the holding of a national seminar for judges and prosecutors on international cooperation in the field of counter-terrorism, organized jointly by the expert group established under resolution 1267 (1999), INTERPOL and the International Organization of la Francophonie.

At the regional level, Madagascar participated actively in the fourth and fifth Conferences of Ministers of Justice of the French-speaking Countries of Africa on the Implementation of the Universal Anti-Terrorism Conventions, held, respectively, in Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso, in March 2007 and in Rabat, Morocco, in May 2008. Madagascar would be pleased to host the sixth Conference in 2009.

The Ouagadougou declaration requests all of Africa's French-speaking countries to promptly implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in all its aspects at the international, regional, subregional and national levels, in particular by mobilizing resources and competencies. In that connection, Madagascar calls on the international community, in particular the United Nations and other partners, to provide the necessary technical and financial assistance to vulnerable African countries and regional research centres in order to strengthen their counter-terrorism capacities in accordance with obligations under international law.

The Rabat declaration refers to the formulation of a draft international convention for Africa's French-speaking countries on extradition and judicial cooperation in the context of the fight against terrorism. Such a convention would be a regional instrument providing an appropriate legal framework for strengthening international counter-terrorism cooperation in the area of criminal justice, and including specific counter-terrorism measures. In accordance with the Strategy, Madagascar has urged that the fight against terrorism be carried out in full respect for human rights. Since the adoption of the declaration, notable progress has been made in formulating such a draft regional convention.

The final declaration of the subregional workshop held in Gaborone, Botswana, in November 2007 for States members of the Southern African Development

Community, in which Madagascar took part, refers to the need to fully incorporate into national legislation the provisions of universal counter-terrorism instruments and of the relevant Security Council and General Assembly resolutions. In that context, Madagascar has already submitted its reports pursuant to resolution 1267 (1999) and resolution 1540 (2004) and is currently finalizing its report pursuant to resolution 1373 (2001). A national committee has been established for each of those resolutions.

It was in the spirit of resolution 1373 (2001) that the Central Intelligence Service was established. The Service is directly linked to the presidency of the Republic and to the central anti-terrorist service, which works in close collaboration with the African Centre for the Study and Research on Terrorism. In July 2008, the President of the Republic of Madagascar launched the Superior Council of National Defence and a financial information service, a body mandated to combat money-laundering and terrorist financing.

Peace is among the priority objectives to which the world aspires. The international community is particularly concerned by the persistent scourge of terrorist acts, including cybercrime. The holding of today's meeting is thus particularly timely, for it is urgent that we act. International cooperation is more necessary than ever before.

Given its insularity and the length of its maritime borders, Madagascar is vulnerable to such activities as the pillaging of its resources, the trafficking of weapons and drugs and acts of piracy at sea. It was in that context that, in July 2008 in Vienna, my country participated in a legal workshop for small island developing States on the legal aspects of countering maritime terrorism in the light of relevant universal instruments.

In the area of subregional cooperation, a training workshop on international cooperation against terrorism was held in Port Louis, Mauritius, for the States members of the Indian Ocean Commission (IOC). The workshop's main objective was to strengthen the cooperation among IOC member States in the area of criminal justice in order to prevent and combat terrorism.

The delegation of Madagascar firmly supports the idea of institutionalizing the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force within the Secretariat, in accordance with the Strategy. To that end, it is important to provide the Task Force with the financial and material resources it needs to fully carry out its mandate. Finally, we should like to pay a heartfelt tribute to Ambassador Rosenthal for his efforts as facilitator of draft resolution A/62/L.48, which is now before us.

Mr. Heller (Mexico) (*spoke in Spanish*): At the outset, my delegation would like to reiterate to the General Assembly the Government of Mexico's most resolute condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and our full commitment to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was agreed upon by Member States to counter that dreadful scourge within the framework of the Organization.

During the two years since the Strategy was adopted, we have noted some progress in its effective implementation. Undoubtedly, thanks to the Strategy, the United Nations is better prepared today to respond to terrorism in a consistent and integrated manner, with the General Assembly playing the major role in that regard.

On the basis of the four pillars of the Strategy, Member States have the primary responsibility for its implementation. However, that calls for the development of our own capacities. For that reason, my delegation has consistently identified the need to bolster international cooperation as a cornerstone of success in the fight against terrorism.

The United Nations system, for its part, is responsible for coordinating its efforts internally so as to be able to identify, fine-tune and place at the disposal of Member States that request them those tools that they require to implement the Strategy, thereby promoting international cooperation and strengthening institutional capacities.

That is why we welcome two measures today. The first is the institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force within the system. The second is the commitment to establish closer interaction on a regular basis between the Task Force and the General Assembly so as to strengthen communication in addressing the specific topics and needs involved in the sensitive area of counter-terrorism. In that regard, Mexico hopes that the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate in particular will play a more prominent role in that task.

There is no doubt that major achievements and progress have been made in combating terrorism. However, Mexico is concerned that the resurgence or outbreaks of manifestations of armed violence could feed terrorism through the funding, recruitment and training of terrorists, as well as the exacerbation of fragile security situations that prevent a return to lasting peace and security in different parts of the world. In such cases, the work of regional and subregional organizations provide added value. Therefore, it is necessary to step up efforts to use that work to gain a closer understanding of the specific regional contexts in which such phenomena take place.

I take this opportunity to acknowledge the efforts of regional and subregional organizations to make themselves essential to the implementation of the Strategy. One example of that is the cooperation between Mexico and the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism (CICTE) of the Organization of American States. In its current capacity as Vice-Chair of the CICTE, and as it prepares to assume the presidency in March 2009, Mexico supports plans to strengthen cooperation among member States, giving pride of place to the needs and capacities of the region, in particular by enhancing security and border controls.

The Government of Mexico is working domestically at all levels to prevent and counter terrorism by strengthening the institutional capacities of the main actors involved and by giving priority to a culture of prevention that is consistent with the rule of law and respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

On the basis of those beliefs, we again appeal to States Members promptly to conclude the comprehensive convention on international terrorism. Furthermore, as a committed participant in promoting and protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms while combating terrorism, Mexico reiterates that this highly ethical approach — the fourth pillar of the Strategy — is essential to ensuring the successful implementation of the Strategy. It should therefore enjoy priority in the actions of the United Nations and Member States.

In that regard, we should like to refer specifically to the system established pursuant to Security Council resolution 1267 (1999) and subsequent resolutions related to the listing and delisting of terrorist individuals, organizations and entities. In that respect, Mexico emphasizes the need to develop more precise systems that not only will make it possible for State authorities to comply with the mandates of those resolutions in full respect for the legal rights of citizens in their respective jurisdictions, but that also recognize the duty of States to take the rights of citizens into account when considering their listing and delisting.

The fight against terrorism calls for the efforts of the international community to be organized, consistent and, above all, steadfast. We hope that this renewed commitment of the Assembly to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will lead to significant progress in eradicating that hateful phenomenon. Mexico reiterates once again its commitment to the fight against terrorism and to the work of the Assembly in that regard.

Lastly, my delegation wishes to acknowledge and thank our friend Ambassador Gert Rosenthal of Guatemala for his very successful work as facilitator in the drafting of resolution A/62/L.48, which we hope will be adopted during the course of the review.

The Acting President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 48/5 of 13 October 1993, I now call upon the observer for the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe.

Mr. Perl (Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe): Terrorism is a global, regional and local phenomenon. Hence, counter-terrorism work requires an approach that incorporates all those factors.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy sets important guidelines in the campaign against global terrorism, but it also recognizes that the Strategy requires implementation — global, regional and national. Those are the three pillars of Strategy implementation and, in that regard, regional organizations such as the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE), the Council of Europe and the Organization of American States have been very active and have a central role to play.

As a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the United Nations Charter, the OSCE recognizes that the United Nations plays the leading role in all counter-terrorism matters in a global perspective. As those present might know, the OSCE is the largest regional organization, with 56 participating States from North America to Central Asia, and also 11 partner countries in North Africa, the Middle East and Asia. The

organization follows a comprehensive approach to security that incorporates the politico-military, economic, environmental and human dimensions of combating terrorism. Over the years, the OSCE has actively contributed to the global effort to fight terrorism by developing wide-ranging commitments to adhere to and implement the international counter-terrorism regime and by helping national authorities develop their counter-terrorism capabilities.

OSCE action is guided by the conviction that we, as a regional organization, have an essential role to play in the implementation of the Strategy. We see the OSCE as an important transmission belt between the United Nations, on the global level, and our participating States. Our organization has 56 regional field offices. Hence, we are ideally situated to develop approaches that take into account region-specific issues, to facilitate the sharing of good national practices and lessons learned from national implementation, and to develop frameworks of regional experts and institutions.

At this point, I would like to conclude by reiterating that the OSCE, with its comprehensive approach to security, has been active in the implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy, and through its dedicated work, the organization has become a recognized and valued partner to many bodies and organizations from within the United Nations family and beyond.

The Acting President: In accordance with General Assembly resolution 44/6 of 17 October 1989, I now call on the observer for the Council of Europe.

Mr. Lezertua (Council of Europe): It is indeed an honour to be here to give the Assembly an overview of the Council of Europe's approach to combating terrorism and, more specifically, our contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The importance of a single, coherent and universally accepted framework for international action against terrorism cannot be overestimated. Allow me to emphasize its enormous significance and confirm the commitment of the Council of Europe, the pan-European regional organization, to conduct its action against terrorism along the lines set out in the Strategy.

As a regional organization, the Council of Europe is committed to facilitating the implementation not only of Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1624 (2005), but overall, of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We do so by providing a forum for discussion, adopting regional standards and best practices, and providing assistance to our member States, thus improving their counter-terrorism capabilities. The Council of Europe takes a three-pronged approach to the fight against terrorism, strengthening legal action, safeguarding fundamental values and addressing the causes of terrorism.

Against that background, we have developed a number of activities related to the implementation of the Strategy. Indeed, in 2007, our organization even adopted a road map on the contribution of the Council of Europe as a regional organization to the implementation of the Strategy. Those documents identified the organization's capabilities in the light of the Strategy. With a view to streamlining and coordinating the Council of Europe efforts, the road map assigned a series of initiatives to various bodies within the organization, relying on the four chapters of the Strategy. The Committee of Experts on Terrorism was given the task of monitoring the implementation of the road map by the 11 entities and bodies of the organization. The Secretary General of the Council of Europe insists on being informed on a monthly basis of the progress achieved in the implementation of that road map.

Regarding the measures to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, the Council of Europe, through its standard-setting and technical cooperation activities, is actively involved in education, youth and the media and contributes to ensuring the protection of minorities and to fighting intolerance, racism and social exclusion in an attempt to weaken the sources of discontent that may fuel terrorism. Those initiatives reflect our conviction that dialogue between individuals, religions and cultures, based on mutual understanding, respect for human rights and tolerance, is key to enhancing social cohesion and, as a result, tackling terrorism. We believe that those two initiatives will have a great impact on the way the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism are addressed in Europe.

Regarding measures to prevent and combat terrorism, one of the priorities of the Council of Europe is to strengthen legal action. To that end, our

organization works towards creating a judicial framework that allows substantial international cooperation among judicial authorities; monitoring signatures and ratifications of relevant instruments and encouraging member States to reconsider existing reservations; increasing the efficiency of the relevant international and European instruments; reinforcing the various forms of mutual cooperation in the criminal field; stepping up the fight against money-laundering and cybercrime; and securing compensation for victims.

In line with the international trend, after 2001 the Council of Europe started to look at how States could take a proactive approach to the fight against terrorism with a view to preventing terrorist acts. One of the most prominent steps in that direction was the adoption of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism in 2005, which constitutes the first international legally binding instrument on that subject. It provides for a process to ensure its effective implementation and follow-up. Members may already know that the Convention has already entered into force and is open for accession by non-member States. I take this opportunity to invite States interested in acceding to that Convention to contact me or my colleagues.

The Council of Europe has undertaken other activities that have added value to the implementation of the Strategy in the European region. Besides monitoring accessions to the Council of Europe conventions against terrorism and promoting their effective implementation, current Council of Europe priorities include pursuing exchanges of information and best practices on public and private compensations and insurance schemes for the victims of terrorism; preparing and updating country profiles on the legal and institutional capacity of the organization's members States to combat terrorism; examining lacunae identified in international law — in that area, we are focusing on young persons as terrorist offenders and targets of terrorist propaganda; cyberterrorism and the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes; insurance schemes to cover terrorism-related damages; denial of residence to foreign terrorists; and combating and preventing terrorism through culture.

As for the measures to build States' capacity to prevent and combat terrorism, the Council of Europe has set up a number of specific legal cooperation programmes open to its member States. The measures to ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism are, perhaps, the most vital from the point of view of the Council of Europe, as they touch upon the reason for the existence of our organization. Since 1949, we have been dedicating our efforts to upholding human rights, the rule of law and pluralist democracy, and that is precisely the reason why we are determined to combat terrorism, which repudiates those three fundamental values. Virtually all of our activities are inspired by an uncompromising approach to the due protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as set out in the European Convention on Human Rights and other instruments elaborated in our organization.

Let me sum up. To conclude, terrorism is indeed a complex phenomenon, and to fight it we need a comprehensive approach. Condemnation and suppression are essential, but they are not enough. We must also work to prevent the conditions that help terrorists to enlist new recruits for their criminal cause. Those two aims go hand in hand, as is clearly reflected in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. That document outlines a comprehensive global approach to countering that phenomenon by addressing not only its manifestations, but also the conditions conducive to its spread. It is certain that we must continue to develop further measures to eradicate that constantly changing scourge of the twenty-first century, but the implementation of the Strategy is essential for the effective fight against terrorism.

We believe that regional organizations can and do provide meaningful contributions to supporting the sustained implementation of the Strategy. With the wealth of their standards and expertise, their knowledge of the regional threat perception and their field presence, the Council of Europe and all other regional and subregional organizations active in this field have already served and will continue to serve as a strategic and useful interface for the United Nations bodies, enhancing the effectiveness of the measures adopted here and the impact of the Strategy.

The meeting rose at 6.20 p.m.

United Nations A/62/PV.119

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

119th plenary meeting
Thursday, 4 September 2008, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kerim ..... (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Beck (Palau), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

Agenda item 118 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/898)

Draft resolution (A/62/L.48)

Mr. Terzi di Sant'Agata (Italy): In commending the President's leadership, I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/62/898) and Ambassador Rosenthal for his crucial part in forging an agreement on the valuable and balanced draft resolution (A/62/L.48) before the Assembly. We support the text of the draft resolution and hope that it will be fully implemented.

My delegation aligns itself with the statements made by the representative of France, on behalf of the European Union (EU), and by EU Coordinator Gilles de Kerchove. Rather than repeating the points already made, I would briefly like to refer to Italy's experience and to the measures that my country has adopted to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The scourge of terrorism took a deadly toll in Italy in the 1970s. To defeat it we learned that three things were absolutely necessary: a multidisciplinary approach, specific legislative measures consistent with the rule of law and respect for human rights, and close international cooperation. Those principles coincide with the core of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Over the first two years of the Strategy's implementation, we have learned that better coordination is needed within the United Nations system. At the same time, the unstable nature of terrorism requires States and international organizations alike to constantly adapt their policies and actions. Only results-oriented policies can successfully serve to implement the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy. As a first step, we support the institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. We encourage the Secretariat to move further in that direction.

My Government has undertaken several initiatives to tackle radicalization and extremism, especially among young people. In the context of a broader initiative, in December 2006 the Italian Ministry of the Interior and Ministry for Youth and Sport set up a youth advisory board for religious and cultural dialogue. Sixteen young men and women, representing 11 different faiths and religious groups, make up a special committee aimed at fostering dialogue and tolerance. Seminars on youth radicalization have been organized, with the participation, for example, of a number of Mediterranean States and many institutions and non-governmental organizations.

In the area of law enforcement, Italy has significantly intensified investigative operations and

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prevention in various areas, including financial activities connected to terrorism. Seven years ago, Italy set up a financial security committee to serve as a coordinating body for all the major agencies and financial institutions involved in the fight against terrorism. In that framework, the Italian Government is also supporting bilateral and multilateral assistance.

Terrorism is a scourge of our age, a threat to our societies that rapidly adapts to new environments and exploits new technologies. That is why information technologies represent, and will continue to do so in the future, both an extremely important tool to confront terrorism and, conversely, an instrument that also benefits terrorists. To better address that threat, my country, like many of its partners, is updating and implementing its structures and strategies. Close monitoring of the Internet, countering the propaganda of hate and fostering respect for life, individual freedom and positive values are measures that must be coupled with the closest attention to phenomena that encourage the recruitment of terrorists.

International cooperation is of paramount importance. Consequently, we should be active in all forms of international judicial cooperation. With EU member States and other United Nations Members, Italy participates in activities that include joint investigations, intelligence exchanges and judicial surrenders, in fulfilment of the EU Framework Decision on the European arrest warrant.

I also wish to underline the priority that should be given to providing assistance to the victims of terrorism. I should like to praise the very significant initiatives taken by the Secretary-General to convene a symposium in the next few days focused on that issue, which has the support of a number of countries, including Italy. Since 1990, the Italian Government has adopted laws and regulations with the aim of supporting victims and their families. The date of 9 May, which marks the anniversary of the assassination of Aldo Moro, the Italian statesman killed by the Red Brigades, was proclaimed a day of remembrance in honour of all the victims of terrorism. We did so to underline that our society bears clear responsibilities to help each victim to fully recover his or her identity and well-being. The purpose was also to remind everyone, especially younger generations, that there is never a political or economic justification for violence and terror.

Preventing and countering all forms of terrorism and radicalization should remain both short- and long-term priorities for our countries. At the same time, we should continue to focus on the prompt implementation of all the relevant resolutions of the Security Council. That is also a key issue that the Italian Government will continue to address and support during its presidency of the G8 in 2009.

Mr. Sen (India): It is a pleasure, Sir, to see you in the Chair. I have circulated a seven-page text, and I have no intention of terrorizing the interested few who have come here this morning by reading all seven of them. I shall therefore summarize it in about half the length, four pages or so.

Terrorism continues to be a pervasive and insidious threat to global security and to the core values of the United Nations. India has been, and unfortunately remains, a victim of international terrorism. The recent attack on the Indian Embassy in Kabul and the serial blasts in Bangalore and Ahmedabad are gruesome reminders of the violence that we continue to face. Investigations are continuing and important arrests have been made that should give us substantive insight into those terrorist networks and their external ramifications. The investigations have also been extremely rapid and successful.

India therefore has an overriding interest in greater and more meaningful international cooperation to counter terrorism. It also underscores the rationale behind our conviction that no political cause, no argument and no belief can or should be used to justify acts of terrorism. As we remember, Mahatma Gandhi preferred to postpone the independence of India rather than compromise with terrorism when there was a violent attack in the course of the non-cooperation movement. That gives us the moral right to say so.

The future of the international campaign against terrorism hinges on success in rooting out terrorist networks and deterring regimes from encouraging or harbouring armed extremists. The General Assembly's inability to reach an agreement on concluding the comprehensive convention against international terrorism limits the impact of its counter-terrorism efforts. We urge Member States to seriously consider the package presented by the coordinator that bridges the divergent views and would facilitate the successful closure of the protracted negotiating process of concluding the convention.

The adoption of a comprehensive convention through the exercise of the law-making powers of the General Assembly is in the interests of all Member States and would reinvigorate the multilateral and collective dimensions of counter-terrorism efforts. Because one cannot both have one's cake and eat it too, one cannot say that the General Assembly is the law-making body and should make laws, and that the Security Council should not, and yet we are unable to make laws ourselves. We therefore continue to call upon the world to act as one in denying terrorists and their ideologues and financiers access to arms, funds, the means of transporting their deadly goods, and safe havens.

The significance of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted two years ago, lies in the fact that it established a global counter-terrorism framework and presented a template that would be pivotal in guiding the counter-terrorism efforts of Member States and the United Nations system.

We thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/62/898) on activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy, which highlights the efforts of the system to support the implementation of the Strategy both through its individual departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes and through the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. We hope that the institutionalization of the Task Force will significantly strengthen its efforts to enable the different United Nations entities to effectively cooperate, coordinate and streamline the work of the United Nations system in the field of counter-terrorism. In that regard, we welcome the proposed integrated implementation initiative that will help the United Nations to deliver as one and avoid duplication.

The primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy rests with the Member States. We therefore foresee the practical engagement of the Task Force with the Member States essentially to be at the bilateral level, guided by the individual needs of each Member State. Nevertheless, we also encourage interaction between Member States and the Task Force that will provide them with an opportunity to receive briefings from the Task Force on its work.

At the national level, as an unfortunate but inevitable result of our tragic history of dealing with terrorism, India has accumulated the expertise and experience to do so. Our own efforts utilize all the available tools within the arsenal of a democratic nation governed by the rule of law. They run the gamut of efforts from surveillance methods governed by law, the monitoring of financial flows and effective legislation regarding dual-use items, to old-fashioned police investigative work. Some of those measures are listed in the text I have circulated in the Hall.

The 13 major United Nations instruments relating to specific terrorist activities remain fundamental tools in the fight against terrorism. India is a party to all 13 major legal instruments. We also attach the utmost importance to the fulfilment of obligations under the relevant counter-terrorism resolutions of the United Nations. We have filed five national reports with the Counter-Terrorism Committee, giving a comprehensive picture of steps taken by India to counter terrorism. A 14-member composite delegation of United Nations counter-terrorism experts visited India in 2006. A detailed presentation of India's counter-terrorism strategy was made to the Committee.

We have in place an extensive legal framework for tackling terrorism. The Unlawful Activities Prevention Act incorporates provisions that deal with all aspects of terrorism, including incitement. The Act also criminalizes the raising of funds for terrorist activities, the holding of proceeds of terrorism, the harbouring of terrorists, and the unauthorized possession of any bomb, dynamite or hazardous explosive substance or other lethal weapon or substance capable of mass destruction, or biological or chemical substance of warfare.

The necessary legal, regulatory and administrative framework for combating money-laundering and the financing of terrorism is also in place. The specific legislation to prevent the financing of terrorism includes the Foreign Exchange Management Act of 1999, the Narcotic Drugs and Psychotropic Substances Act of 2003 and the Prevention of Money-Laundering Act of 1967, as amended in 2003 and 2004. An Indian financial intelligence unit is already in operation and is the nodal agency responsible for receiving, processing and disseminating information relating to suspect financial transactions to intelligence and enforcement agencies.

India has adhered to the existing regulatory framework governing controls over weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery and has

strengthened those obligations by enacting the 2005 Weapons of Mass Destruction and their Delivery Systems (Prohibition of Unlawful Activities) Act, which is an overarching and integrated piece of legislation prohibiting unlawful activities relating to weapons of mass destruction and their delivery systems. Appropriate legislative, procedural and administrative measures have been instituted to regulate strategic exports from India and to ensure that conventional weapons do not fall into the wrong hands, whether those of State or non-State actors. We have appropriate controls in place for the enforcement of the effective customs, immigration and border controls necessary to prevent the movement of terrorists and the establishment of safe havens.

The intricate linkages and networks that unite terror groups can be challenged only through concerted international cooperation and efforts by way of extradition, prosecution and information flows. India is engaged in those efforts at the regional and bilateral levels.

India is party to the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism. The Convention provides for the extradition of persons accused of terrorist activities within SAARC member countries. In addition, India has entered into agreements with several countries relating to extradition and mutual assistance in criminal matters. To ensure a greater sense of security within the South Asian region, the fifteenth SAARC summit adopted the Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, which allows member States to provide each other the greatest measure of mutual assistance in criminal matters. India has constituted joint working groups with 25 States and such regional organizations as the European Union and the Bay of Bengal Initiative for Multi-Sectoral Technical and Economic Cooperation in order to coordinate and cooperate in counter-terrorism efforts. Those groups meet regularly and have proved useful in providing a forum for the exchange of information and experiences.

We believe that capacity-building is one of the essential elements in combating terrorism. The Strategy in its entirety recommends an expanded role for the existing legal and institutional counter-terrorist framework within the United Nations in order to enhance the capabilities of Member States to combat terrorism. India remains willing to provide all assistance in the larger effort to counter the threat of terrorism. We are willing to share information with the relevant United Nations entities and to provide assistance bilaterally or multilaterally, especially to countries that are themselves not directly threatened by terrorism but whose participation is vital to the success of the larger international effort.

Terrorism is an attack on the values that define the international community and seriously impairs the enjoyment of human rights. Nevertheless, States must ensure that all measures to combat terrorism comply with obligations under international law, in particular international human rights, refugee and humanitarian law. India has strong democratic institutions, an active civil society, a free and extremely critical media and a legal community firmly committed to the rule of law and the preservation of human rights. The security forces have strict directions to adhere to human rights standards while combating terrorism. We are committed to upholding human rights and to ensuring that there is no impunity.

We appreciate the convening of the symposium on victims of terrorism, which will help to put a human face on the scourge of terrorism and to provide a forum for victims' voices. The best tribute we can pay to the victims of terrorism is to ensure that no one else in the world suffers their fate.

Finally, it would be remiss of me not to thank Ambassador Rosenthal, the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, who has very ably facilitated the informal consultations to finalize the draft resolution to be adopted by the General Assembly.

Mr. Churkin (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): The Russian Federation is at the forefront in combating terrorism and has consistently favoured the robust strengthening of effective international counter-terrorism cooperation. In that regard, Russia would like to reiterate its dedication to the central guiding role of the United Nations in organizing and coordinating such cooperation.

Experience unequivocally demonstrates that the leadership of the United Nations in combating terrorism serves to ensure the achievement of the genuine results required by the entire international community, from establishing functioning international legal and political instruments to combat terrorism to rendering technical counter-terrorism assistance and organizing comprehensive efforts to prevent terrorism

and overcome the factors that fuel the emergence of terrorism.

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy two years ago served as a very clear reaffirmation of the key role of the world Organization in international counter-terrorism efforts. Russia believes that the Strategy continues to be among the major strategic international counter-terrorism instruments. It is essentially a unique compilation of the positions of every Member State and a road map for our joint political and moral obligations in the priority areas of international counter-terrorism efforts.

Moreover, the Strategy is not a declaration, but a document aimed at achieving specific goals. We need to turn to the provisions of the Strategy on counteracting incitement to terrorism and work against the use by terrorists of the potential of the Internet. To achieve that, we need to enlist the participation of the State and private sectors in combating terrorist threats.

In our view, it is of the greatest importance to specifically promote precisely such an understanding of the significance of the Strategy in order to prevent its being undermined, inter alia, by the failure to fulfil excessively high expectations only two years after the Strategy came into existence.

We believe that a constructive, realistic and simultaneously cautious approach to the Strategy and a review of its implementation is fully and properly reflected in the draft resolution produced for today's meeting. We believe that such a draft resolution will ensure our further joint, involved and effective work within the framework of international anti-terrorist cooperation and will become an additional mechanism for the successful implementation of the Strategy.

I would like to particularly stress that if we are able to move forward in implementing the Strategy and, most importantly, strengthen our efforts to counter and prevent terrorism, we can only do so together, representing the entire international community. Double-standards in dealing with international terrorism and attempts to subordinate anti-terrorist cooperation to one's own political objectives inevitably weaken the struggle against terrorism and expand the field of action for terrorist groups and organizations.

We support the work of the Task Force within the framework of the existing mandate, the strengthening of its interaction with the General Assembly, and the holding of regular briefings and the preparation of reports for Member States by the Task Force. We believe that those areas of the Task Force's work and its institutionalization within the framework of existing resources will promote a further stepping up of efforts towards implementation of the provisions of the Strategy.

Russia's position is based on its consistent and vigorous support for the Strategy and its maximum possible implementation. It guides our participation in international anti-terrorist cooperation in both the multilateral and bilateral formats and, no less importantly, within the framework of anti-terrorist work at the national level.

Informational materials have been distributed in this Hall concerning several parameters of the international and national anti-terrorist efforts of Russian authorities, and, to a greater and greater extent, of all Russian society. I would like to draw attention to several aspects of that information.

Last December, the leading Russian State body responsible for the organization and coordination of anti-terrorist work, the National Anti-Terrorist Committee, consisting of the leaders of the relevant competent Russian ministries and the parliamentary leadership, adopted an extremely important document on the implantation of a range of additional measures to counter terrorism in the Russian Federation within the framework of the demands of the United Nations Global Anti-Terrorism Strategy.

The document, taken together with specific provisions of the Strategy, formulates Russia's goal for the next two or three years of speeding up adherence to a number of European and international legal instruments on terrorism. It also contains provisions for the ongoing improvement of Russian anti-terrorist legislation, including measures to counter cyberterrorism and to forestall any possibility of terrorists accessing weapons of mass destruction. It also addresses the expansion of anti-terrorist partnerships among States, businesses and civil society and the promotion within that context, of the development of dialogue and mutual understanding among civilizations and religions.

In that regard, I would like to emphasize particularly that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy has been fully accepted by Russian law enforcement agencies and by civil society

institutions cooperating with them in the field of anti-terrorism and has been organically interwoven into the daily anti-terrorist efforts in my country.

I would also like to note another document guiding practical affairs of the Russian State and at implementing the objectives of the global anti-terrorist efforts. The document, adopted by the Russian National Anti-Terrorist Committee in April, is a comprehensive counter-terrorism plan for the Russian Federation from 2008-2012.

Among its most important elements are those measures to halt the spread of violent extremist and terrorist ideology, inter alia, through the Internet which, as is well known, is increasingly being actively used by terrorists to recruit their supporters and to influence public opinion. Particular stress has also been put on the development of anti-terrorist cooperation through the mass media, academic and cultural circles, educational institutions and religious organizations.

Such interaction must meet important counter-terrorism objectives by promoting, training and educating young people in the spirit of rejecting terrorism and extremism and by reaffirming within society the principles of tolerance and the equality of cultures and religions.

Russia's most important achievement in the fight against terrorism is the substantive and irreversible reduction of terrorist threats on Russian territory as compared to the 1990s or the early years of the twenty-first century. The Russian Federation is ready to actively and constructively share with its foreign partners its anti-terrorist experience, of proven effectiveness. We are convinced that it can contribute to the essential comprehensive implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that we all hope to achieve.

Ms. Blum (Colombia) (*spoke in Spanish*): The delegation of Colombia would like to thank President Kerim and the Secretary-General for preparing and convening this meeting, which provides an opportunity to consider the progress made in the fight against terrorism. I would also like to stress the importance of examining the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This review is a valuable exercise, not only to assess progress made during the first two years of the Strategy, but also to give impetus to the implementation of that instrument through new policies and measures.

Colombia is pursuing a comprehensive counter-terrorism policy. In Colombia, terrorism is the method that illegal armed groups have chosen to threaten the stability of the State. As a result of their criminal acts, those organizations have made civilians among their primary targets. That was demonstrated in two recent separate incidents of indiscriminate bombings in which several civilians were killed and more than 100 injured.

From the beginning of its implementation in 2002, the democratic security policy established in Colombia identified terrorism as one of the most serious threats to be addressed by the State. In recent years, Colombia has made unprecedented progress in the fight against that threat and in the implementation of measures to address the conditions conducive to its spread.

In efforts to restore security throughout the territory, the country has added the consolidation of the rule of law and the strengthening of the capacity for the peaceful resolution of conflicts, an approach highlighted in the Global Strategy. In that regard, more than 1 million Colombians have been trained in peaceful conflict resolution.

The foreign policy of Colombia has joined in the global rejection of terrorism. We support the initiatives for hemispheric and global cooperation in preventing, combating and eliminating the threat. That is why we have participated in defining the mandates and political commitments agreed upon at the Summits of the Americas and in the context of the Rio Group, the Organization of American States and the United Nations, among other international forums.

In that context, we also reject conduct such as the kidnapping or murder of civilians, the destruction of infrastructure and the use of explosives against the population, which the international community has described as terrorist acts. Likewise, Colombia has striven to implement United Nations resolutions on measures to combat terrorism. In keeping with our commitments, we have ratified 10 out of the 13 international conventions adopted within the framework of the United Nations in that area, and we are considering adopting the remaining three.

In its strategy, Colombia has updated domestic legislation through mechanisms that permit inter-

agency coordination and capacity-building aimed at gathering intelligence information, both to prevent terrorist acts and to dismantle terrorist networks and support structures. In this struggle, the State's actions have been robust. Recent military and police successes reflect the efforts of our armed forces against terrorism and organized crime. We have dismantled a significant portion of the structures of illegal armed groups, which have lost not only command and control, but also several of their key leaders. Approximately 48,000 members of such groups have been demobilized. Furthermore, the mobility of those who carry out illegal armed activity has been significantly curtailed.

In 2007, Colombia experienced its lowest homicide rate in 20 years; that trend has continued thus far in 2008. Likewise, the number of terrorist acts committed in 2007 was the lowest in 18 years; thus far in 2008 there have been no attacks against towns. The number of municipalities affected by terrorist acts declined from 551 in 2002 to 210 in 2007. Regional and local governance has been restored throughout the national territory. Kidnapping, a crime linked to terrorism, has fallen by 81 per cent.

In activities with other countries, Colombia's authorities have broadened the channels for cooperation and information exchange, enabling them to identify, freeze and confiscate assets and resources that fuel terrorist organizations.

In 2006, in order to harmonize our legislation with international norms, we enacted Law 1121, which criminalized the financing of terrorism and the management of resources related to terrorist activities. Since 2006, the intelligence and financial analysis unit, a national entity for the prevention and detection of possible money-laundering activities and the financing of terrorism, has worked to exchange information with other financial intelligence units throughout the world. We have stepped up our exchange of information with a significant number of countries in order to counter activities related to terrorism and drug trafficking, through forums, seminars and workshops promoted by Colombia at the highest level.

The implementation of measures to ensure respect for human rights and the rule of law as the basis for the fight against terrorism is another key element in the policies adopted by Colombia in this area. Those measures are part of a State policy implemented in accordance with international treaties signed by Colombia and are based on the norms underpinning respect for human rights and support for victims. An example of those activities is the provisions adopted to compensate victims of terrorism through administrative proceedings. They will make it possible to provide swift compensation to victims and their families without resorting to judicial proceedings, which previously lasted for years. In addition, the Attorney General has strengthened the national human rights and international humanitarian law unit, a specialized body mandated to investigate crimes violating human rights and international humanitarian law.

The national Government has been working to formulate a national action plan on human rights and international humanitarian law. The early warning system and the inter-agency committee will be strengthened and consolidated as mechanisms for the prevention of large-scale human rights violations and infringements of international humanitarian law. We will continue our programmes to protect human rights and to support persons who have been demobilized or reintegrated into society and reincorporate them into civilian life.

For its part, the Ministry of National Defence has implemented a policy aimed at the comprehensive protection of human rights and international humanitarian law as a legitimizing aspect of the actions of the military forces. The recent successful rescue of former presidential candidate Ingrid Betancourt, 3 United States citizens and 11 members of the security forces, who had been captives of the Fuerzas Armadas Revolucionarias de Colombia (FARC), reflects the effectiveness of that comprehensive policy. This strategy is being carried out through the integrity and operational safety policy of the National Police — an intrinsic and essential human rights policy that sets out a series of internal strategies to ensure the efficiency, effectiveness and quality of police services.

The plan of action set out in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an incomparable tool in the international context. It should be strengthened on an ongoing basis through effective measures that permit real progress towards the eradication of that criminal phenomenon. That is why Colombia once again calls on Member States and the United Nations system to implement the operative measures set out in the plan of action.

In the context of implementing the Global Strategy, Colombia considers it a priority to honour the commitment to provide no support, refuge or asylum to persons involved in terrorist acts, as stipulated in the plan of action and in relevant United Nations resolutions. The international community must continue to study measures to address non-compliance with that commitment.

In that connection, particular attention should be given to measures aimed at combating the sources of terrorist financing in all its forms, improving border controls and customs and effectively suppressing illicit drug trafficking and money-laundering. Cooperation measures should also include the activation of mechanisms that permit effective international coordination and the strengthening of the capacity to gather and process information, both to prevent terrorist acts and to dismantle terrorist networks and their support structures.

It is also essential to address the links between terrorism and other forms of transnational crime, in particular illegal drug trafficking and the illicit trade in weapons, ammunition and explosives, kidnapping and extortion and homicide. Therefore, a comprehensive international strategy is required to tackle the links between this phenomenon and other criminal manifestations.

Colombia would like also to stress the importance of the international community's moving towards the recognition, protection and promotion of the rights of victims of terrorism. While joint international work is under way in the fight against terrorist acts, the issue of victims of terrorism and their rights does not have sufficient legal support mechanisms in the international arena.

Finally, I would like to reiterate Colombia's call on the General Assembly and all Member States to fully apply the principle of shared responsibility that involves us all in the fight against terrorism. This is a global threat that does not respect borders and threatens the stability of all States. No argument justifies shirking the fight against that scourge.

Mrs. Aitimova (Kazakhstan): Allow me first of all to express my appreciation to the President of the Assembly for organizing this meeting and to the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, for his efforts in facilitating the informal consultations on this very important topic.

The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by the General Assembly was indeed a historic event. For the first time, all 192 States Members of the United Nations agreed to a common strategic approach to almost all the important aspects of the fight against terrorism.

Today, the Strategy plays a crucial role in strengthening the legal foundation of the anti-terrorism coalition, ensuring a comprehensive approach to the international fight against terrorism. It calls not only for resisting all acts of international terrorism and its ideology, but also for eliminating the problems that feed it.

We believe that the value of the Strategy is in identifying the coordinated measures to counteract terrorism taken at the national and international levels. The Strategy has great potential to bolster the efforts of the international community in the fight against terrorism and strengthens the multilateral nature of counter-terrorist actions taken by States.

We welcome the report of the Secretary-General devoted to United Nations activities on the implementation of the Strategy. We believe that the report fully reflects United Nations activities, in particular those undertaken by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force through its plan of action, to implement the provisions of the Strategy.

We think that the work of the Task Force should be more active, fruitful and transparent to Member States. The Task Force should be integrated into the Secretariat, and expanding its capabilities is a top priority on the agenda. In order to fulfil its mandate, the Task Force is in need of additional funds, personnel and technical resources.

The Strategy identifies four principal courses of action to achieve its complete realization. They are all extremely important. We believe that the emphasis of the international community should be, before anything else, on the first two courses of action, in no case diminishing the value of the others.

Taking into consideration measures aimed at achieving the elimination of conditions contributing to the expansion of terrorism, the methods of prevention of terrorism and the war against it, along with such conditions as hunger and poverty that are favourable to terrorism, we would speak first and foremost of the elimination of illicit drug trafficking. Illicit drug

trafficking is the financial foundation of terrorism and therefore must be eliminated at the first instance. The Republic of Kazakhstan consistently supports the strengthening of national and regional cooperation to solve the international drug control problem. We believe that such cooperation could become one of the most important orientations in the work of the Task Force.

We think that the working group on addressing the radicalization and extremism that lead to terrorism and the working group on preventing and resolving conflicts are among those in which Member States need to increase their activity.

Allow me to briefly inform the Assembly of the counter-terrorism actions that are taken in my country.

Appropriate State bodies take all necessary organizational and practical measures to detect and suppress terrorist activity, while also preventing and minimizing the terrorist threat as a whole. At this point, we have been successful in preventing the spread of terrorist acts. Our actions helped to neutralize the activity of international terrorist organizations under the control of Al-Qaida, such as the Zhamaat of Mojaheddin of Central Asia, the Eastern Turkestan Islamic Movement and the extremist religious party Hisb-ut-Tahrir, which is prohibited in Kazakhstan.

The tracing of persons and organizations associated with terrorist activities is being carried out within the framework of fulfilling our international obligations and responding to requests of assistance from other countries, regardless of the place of execution of the terrorist acts.

Certain efforts are aimed at creating a counter-terrorism mechanism allowing for a systematic and complex usage of all possible Government resources. The Anti-terrorist Interagency Centre, created in my country with the involvement of 11 law enforcement agencies, now resolves issues related to the prevention of terrorist acts within the framework of cooperation with such international and regional organizations as the United Nations, the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, the Commonwealth of Independent States, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe and others.

In conclusion, I would like to stress that, as of today, Kazakhstan has ratified all 13 international conventions against terrorism.

My delegation strongly supports the text of the draft resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and calls upon States to adopt that draft resolution at today's meeting. We are sure that the constructive and successful cooperation between Member States in the implementation of the Strategy will strengthen regional and international security and eliminate the issue of international terrorism in the future.

Mr. Pfanzelter (Austria): I would like to express Austria's gratitude to Ambassador Gert Rosenthal for his outstanding efforts in facilitating the consultations on the draft resolution on the review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

The adoption by consensus of the Strategy two years ago was a landmark event. It constitutes the first universally agreed strategic framework to counter terrorism. Its success, however — and I think we all agree on this — depends entirely on its implementation through concrete measures.

We would at this stage also like to take this opportunity to thank the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, under the leadership of Assistant Secretary-General Robert Orr, for its very important work. We hope that the process of institutionalizing the Task Force and endowing it with the necessary funding from the regular United Nations budget will soon be complete.

Austria fully supports the statements made by the French Presidency and the European Union Counter-Terrorism Coordinator on behalf of the European Union. I will therefore limit my intervention to highlighting three areas in which Austria has undertaken additional efforts to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy.

First, it is essential to ensure that the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy is implemented globally in a holistic and integrated manner. In order to advance global implementation of the Strategy, Austria, together with the United Nations Task Force and the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), organized the Vienna Terrorism Symposium this past May, which for the first time brought together all stakeholders: Member States, the Task Force, regional and subregional organizations and civil society. Many have called it a milestone in our common efforts. UNODC

has published proceedings of the Symposium, and they are available in hard copy in all United Nations languages and also, of course, on the UNODC website.

We consider the integrated implementation of the Strategy crucial to its success. Austria has therefore given a voluntary contribution of more than $100,000 to support the efforts of the Working Group of the Task Force on Integrated Implementation.

Our second priority area is capacity-building in all States as a core element of the global counter-terrorism effort. Austria strongly supports the development of State capacity to implement the Strategy through technical assistance provided by the UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch. In this context, my delegation would like to pay a special tribute to Mr. Jean-Paul Laborde and to thank him for his outstanding work. At the same time, we warmly welcome his successor, who is with us — Ambassador Cecilia Ruthström-Ruin of Sweden.

Austria is one of the largest voluntary contributors to the Terrorism Prevention Branch. With its initial contribution of $1 million, it was instrumental in launching the Global Project on Strengthening the Legal Regime against Terrorism. In 2007, we increased our contribution to this project to assist least developed countries by another $515,000. In July 2008, Austria sponsored — and reference, for which we are thankful, has been made by quite a number of delegations — a very successful legal workshop for small island developing States on countering maritime terrorism.

We remain firmly committed to strengthening the legal framework to combat international terrorism. Austria has ratified and implemented all 14 relevant universal legal instruments, as well as all relevant Security Council resolutions. We hope very soon to be among the first to have ratified and implemented the entire legal architecture in the field of counter-terrorism.

With respect to combating the abuse of the Internet by terrorists, we have shared our best practices with the Task Force Working Group on Countering the Use of the Internet for Terrorist Purposes.

Now I come to the third area of Austrian activities. Those activities aim at addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. We think that promoting the rule of law and human rights and preventing radicalization and extremism are activities that all of us must undertake and encourage. As a member of the Human Security Network, Austria attaches great importance to the nexus between security, development, the rule of law and human rights, which are preconditions for peace and human security and thus contribute to the prevention of the radicalization and extremism that lead to terrorism.

Both at the national level and in our bilateral development cooperation, Austria promotes human rights education, education in peacebuilding and fostering tolerance as a bulwark against radicalization and extremism. More than one third of Austrian development cooperation programmes and projects are designed to support democracy and human rights in order to enable people to actively participate in policymaking.

Austria also has a long-standing tradition in promoting dialogue between cultures and religions. We have been particularly active in organizing conferences, workshops and projects aimed at preventing political and social radicalization on all sides and strengthening moderate forces against radical and extremist positions. During the European Year of Intercultural Dialogue (2008), Austria has intensified its activities, focusing on women, youth and the media. Together with some European Union partners, Austria is carrying out several projects addressing the phenomenon of violent radicalization related to specific areas and hotspots such as prisons. These projects aim at preventing radicalization and recruitment as well as building capacity in the field of administration, security and civil society.

In order to succeed in implementing the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Strategy on a global level, we need solidarity, partnership and cooperation. To meet the global threat of terrorism, we must unite our strengths, all of us — Member States and international organizations, regional and subregional bodies, civil society, victims' organizations and the private sector. That is the real challenge ahead of us.

Mr. Tarragô (Brazil): At the outset, I wish to congratulate General Assembly President Kerim and Ambassador Rosenthal of Guatemala, facilitator of the discussions on draft resolution A/62/L.48, on the successful conclusion of one more step in the United Nations efforts in the fight against terrorism.

We welcome the draft resolution as a positive step in the process of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. The draft reaffirms the importance of the Strategy and its four pillars and the central role of the General Assembly in addressing the issue. Just as importantly, it underlines the relevance of international cooperation in the prevention of and fight against terrorism, in accordance with international law. We also welcome the decision to institutionalize the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, as a means to enhance coordination and coherence between the various United Nations entities dealing with the issue and to deepen the interaction between the General Assembly and the Task Force.

The views we expressed on the Strategy and its plan of action during the informal session held in December last year remain valid, and I shall not repeat them. All the same, while recognizing the importance of implementing actions in the context of the four pillars of the Strategy, we wish to emphasize the need to achieve progress in the first pillar, as a means of developing actions that are more fair and effective in the prevention of terrorism in the long run.

I wish to highlight some of my Government's efforts in the global fight against terrorism. The repudiation of terrorism is a guiding principle of Brazilian international relations enshrined in our Constitution. Acts of terrorism are addressed in our refugees' law as an exclusion clause in the recognition of the status of refugees. Furthermore, the financing of terrorism is considered a predicate offence to money-laundering under our anti-money-laundering law.

While we are still working to update our legislation, particular progress has been made in establishing measures to prevent the financing of terrorism. Brazil is a founding member of the South American Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering and has chaired it since June 2008. Brazil is a party to all international conventions and protocols against terrorism and is in the process of ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. My country is also a party to the Inter-American Convention against Terrorism and participates actively in the Inter-American Committee against Terrorism.

With regard to recent developments, I should mention the institutional restructuring of the Brazilian Intelligence Agency, which resulted in the strengthening of its counter-terrorism section. No terrorist activities have been reported on Brazil's territory. Nonetheless, the monitoring of vulnerabilities and measures to prevent terrorist acts and their financing continue to be enhanced.

In a move that was not directly linked to counter-terrorism but that has had a significant impact on our prevention measures, Brazil has adopted new passports that use state-of-the-art technology, in accordance with international security norms established by the International Civil Aviation Organization. Since December 2006, virtually all new passports —totalling more than 1.2 million — have been issued under the new system.

We welcome the progress made so far in the implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which also sets the stage for another review and for updating in response to changes. But we should not lose sight of the need to move forward with the negotiations on the adoption of a convention on international terrorism. We believe that it would be to the benefit of all to complement existing instruments and to ensure that, as we tackle the threat of terrorism, a strengthened and comprehensive international legal framework is put in place.

Mr. Badji (Senegal) (*spoke in French*): My delegation subscribes to the statements made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the States members of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and by the representative of the Republic of Guinea on behalf of the Group of African States. We thank President Kerim for having organized this first biennial review of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. My delegation also thanks the Secretary-General for having provided our meeting with an informative and detailed report on the activities carried out by the United Nations system to implement the Strategy (A/62/898). In addition, our thanks go to the facilitator, His Excellency Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala, for his commendable efforts in the formulation of the draft resolution on the Strategy.

By unanimously adopting the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006, States Members of the United Nations resolutely committed themselves to do their utmost to combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. Today, two years after

that historic achievement, it is our duty to revisit the Strategy in order to assess achievements, identify possible shortcomings and seek to apply remedies where needed. Thus we hope that this meeting will enable us to agree on major actions to be undertaken at all levels identified in the Strategy so that we can improve its implementation, which is already well under way, and can provide it with greater momentum.

It is gratifying to note that, since the adoption of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, significant efforts have been made to implement it, thanks largely to considerable efforts by several United Nations bodies, programmes, funds and specialized agencies and by regional and non-governmental organizations to promote, inter alia, economic development, conflict prevention, the culture of peace and the dialogue among civilizations.

Among the actions carried out in those areas, initiatives undertaken to strengthen intercultural and interreligious dialogue, because they contribute to better understanding among peoples and to the emergence of a greater culture of tolerance, are assuming particular importance in the struggle to eradicate the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

The dialogue among civilizations, the fight against prejudice, tolerance and the strengthening of understanding among religions and cultures are clearly among the most effective ways to promote cooperation and success in the fight against terrorism. That is why we welcome UNESCO's adoption, in October 2007, of a Medium-Term Strategy for 2008-2013 on the promotion of cultural diversity, intercultural dialogue and the culture of peace, as well as the holding in Madrid on 16 and 17 July 2008, of the conference on interreligious dialogue organized at the joint initiative of His Majesty King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud of Saudi Arabia and His Majesty King Juan Carlos of Spain. It is by keeping alive the ideals of peace, dialogue and tolerance that we shall effectively assist in meeting the challenge of ensuring for present and future generations a peaceful and more secure world, free from hatred and gratuitous violence.

Another challenge that we must meet in the fight against terrorism remains that of development. In that regard, I should emphasize that it is by promoting development and creating decent living conditions for all and by fighting poverty and destitution that we will be able to tackle the breeding ground for hatred, violence and the radicalization that can lead to terrorism.

The important role played by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force — created in June 2005 by the Secretary-General to ensure the coordination and coherence of the actions taken within the United Nations system to combat terrorism — deserves to be highlighted in several respects. That is why we strongly support the Secretary-General's initiative to institutionalize the Task Force and why we recall the need to further strengthen, under his leadership, the existing mechanisms for cooperation and technical assistance to provide countries that wish it with sufficient human, technical and financial resources to combat terrorism. In addition to providing the Task Force with an independent budget, in accordance with clear and well-defined modalities, the institutionalization should lead to greater communication with Member States, in particular through the production of written reports on its major activities and through the exchange of information about its guidelines.

The strengthening of the international legal framework through greater adherence by States to the various international legal instruments dealing with terrorism, the strengthening of security measures in airports and maritime environments and the intensification of the struggle against the financing of terrorism and drug trafficking are all actions that can serve as yardsticks for properly measuring progress already accomplished in the prevention of and struggle against terrorism.

However, none of our States alone can effectively meet that challenge at the global level. There is therefore a need to implement more dynamic and more inclusive international cooperation, in particular regarding the exchange of information and experience, while stressing the strengthening of existing mechanisms for cooperation and for technical and financial assistance.

In that spirit, we welcome the holding, in Rabat, Morocco, from 12 to 16 May, of the Fifth Conference of Ministers of Justice of Francophone African countries for the implementation of the universal instruments against terrorism. The Declaration and the draft convention on mutual legal assistance and extradition against terrorism approved at that meeting

are truly valuable tools for cooperation in implementing the Strategy.

It can certainly be agreed that, even if we have the right to hail the progress made by the various United Nations entities in implementing the Strategy, we must never lose sight of the fact that implementation devolves first and foremost on Member States. Aware of that responsibility, Senegal, which is a party to nearly all of the international conventions on terrorism — 13 of 16 — has further strengthened its actions to combat the scourge so as to better succeed in implementing the Strategy. That serves to reconfirm the ongoing commitment of my country to combating terrorism.

Here, I wish to recall that at the initiative of His Excellency Abdoulaye Wade, President of the Republic of Senegal, a conference of heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity took place in Dakar, on 17 October 2001. The Dakar Declaration against Terrorism adopted at that meeting was the basis for the adoption, in July 2004, of the Additional Protocol to the Algiers Convention on the Combating and Preventing of Terrorism.

Senegal has also adopted a series of internal measures aimed at strengthening legal and institutional mechanisms existing in this area. As an example, the Government of Senegal, which since 2003 has been involved in a campaign to combat the financing of terrorism, adopted Law 2004-09 of 6 February 2004, mandating the identification of suspicious operations in line with a uniform law on the struggle against terrorism and money-laundering in the West African Economic and Monetary Union.

Similarly, a national entity for dealing with financial information was created by Decree 2004-1150 of 18 August 2004 to gather together and process the results of such operations. In that framework, too, Law 2007-01 of 12 February 2007, amending the Penal Code, introduced article 279-3 on the definition of the financing of terrorism. Senegal also engaged in two legislative reforms through Laws 2007-01 and 2007-04 of 12 February 2007, amending the Penal Code and the Code for Penal Procedure.

Those laws provide for the definition and suppression of terrorist acts and frame the specific procedure for so doing. Along the same lines, four texts were recently adopted, designed to prevent and punish violations of penal law committed through the Internet. Those are Law 2008-11 on cybercrime, Law 2008-08 on electronic transactions, Law 2008-12 on the protection of personal data, and Law 2008-10 on the information society.

It is clear that the progress that has been made, although considerable, cannot make us lose sight of the magnitude of the road that lies ahead to overcome terrorism. Beyond mere declarations of dedication, a positive outcome to our shared goal of eradicating terrorism depends on the pooling of the efforts of all of the players involved in the context of sincere and dynamic cooperation.

In conclusion, we wish to reaffirm the importance of respect for human rights in combating terrorism. To be fully effective, our actions in that area must always take place in strict respect for human rights, international law and the norms and principles laid down by the United Nations Charter. Our determination thus to conduct a crusade against that scourge must never make us lose sight of the fact that our campaign will succeed only through the respect for human rights.

Mr. Burian (Slovakia): At the outset, I would like to reiterate that my delegation fully aligns itself with the statement made on this item yesterday by the representative of France on behalf of the European Union. In my intervention, I would like to add a few additional comments on behalf of my delegation.

Slovakia welcomed the adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in September 2006 as a clear demonstration of the will of Member States to fight the plague of terrorism through multilateral cooperation and joint efforts.

We fully agree with the Secretary-General that only the concerted action of all actors at all levels — national, international, regional and subregional — including civil society, can bring about tangible results in the process of implementing the Strategy. In that regard, Slovakia is undertaking concrete steps and initiatives to support the implementation of the Strategy at all levels. At the domestic level, we have focused our efforts on reinforcement of State capacity to fight and prevent terrorism and also to fulfil relevant Security Council resolutions. We have adopted all 13 international legal instruments to counter terrorism and we are ready to share our experience and national practices under implementation with our partner States Members of the United Nations.

We fully agree with previous speakers that performance at the national level is crucial to the implementation of the Strategy. In that regard, both the Secretary-General and the President of the General Assembly, in their statements yesterday, rightly emphasized the need for all Member States to join all international legal instruments to counter terrorism. We fully support that appeal since only a comprehensive approach to all aspects of the fight against terrorism can provide adequate and efficient protection against that evil. In that respect, we also join their call on all Member States to redouble their efforts to finalize the negotiations on the draft text of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism during the upcoming sixty-third session of the General Assembly.

At the international level, among other endeavours, Slovakia participated as a sponsor of the International Process on Global Counter-Terrorism Cooperation, mentioned earlier. Also based on our experience from chairing the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) for the past two years, we have focused our attention in that process on the issues of United Nations cooperation with functional intergovernmental bodies and regional and subregional organizations, as well as on the role of civil society in fighting terrorism. We are pleased that the value of those bodies in our common fight against terrorism is also recognized in the draft resolution (A/62/L.48) before us today.

I wish to underline that those bodies have unique potential, capabilities and comparative advantages that should be better used to accelerate the process of implementing the Strategy and to make the fight against terrorism more efficient and coordinated at the global, regional and national levels.

Above all, some issues in the fight against terrorism can be addressed efficiently only through regional cooperation. That is why we believe that the involvement of regional organizations in the implementation of the Strategy is crucial. Moreover, regional and subregional organizations can play an important role in raising awareness and promoting regional cooperation to secure the implementation of the Strategy.

Last but not least, regional organizations can assist in ensuring that the implementation of the Strategy receives adequate political attention and support from the countries of the region by endorsing it as a matter of regional priority. In that respect, we believe that regional action plans on the implementation of the Strategy might be a good way to speed up the process and strengthen cooperation.

Regional organizations need to be further engaged by the United Nations on the implementation of the Strategy. In that respect, it is important that regional organizations have concrete interlocutors at the United Nations on the implementation of the various aspects of the Strategy.

There are already a few concrete contacts between regional organizations and different United Nations bodies dealing with various aspects of the fight against terrorism. For instance, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, the Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) are involved in various regional workshops and dialogue with regional organizations on issues related to fighting terrorism. In my view, we need to bring those contacts and cooperation with the United Nations on counter-terrorism into one coherent system, with the roles of the various players and entities within the Task Force clearly defined, and to facilitate communication with them and between them.

Joint regional outreach activities involving regional organizations and various functional international bodies can help stimulate regional cooperation in combating terrorism and develop national inter-agency cooperation, which is also very important. They can also facilitate better global and regional interaction among the various stakeholders, including international intergovernmental organizations. Those activities should be further encouraged and supported, including, if appropriate, by creating a trust fund for regional workshops to exchange experiences and best practices in the regions.

Finally, civil society and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) must also play an important role and make a useful contribution to promoting the implementation of the Strategy. We need to find ways in which to engage and involve civil society in the process of furthering implementation of the Strategy. There are already concrete examples of the participation of NGOs in activities to promote the implementation of the counter-terrorism resolutions of the Security Council in various regions, which, in our view, should be appropriately multiplied in the regions

and taken as an inspiration for a more systematic approach in that respect.

In conclusion, I would also like to take this opportunity to express our appreciation to the facilitator, Mr. Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala, for his tireless efforts and professional approach to the preparation of the draft resolution before us. We support the draft resolution as it currently stands.

Mr. Shin Boo-nam (Republic of Korea): At the outset, I would like to extend my sincere congratulations to President Kerim on convening this important meeting to review the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I commend the hard work of Ambassador Rosenthal, who has led the process of the review of the Strategy, resulting in the draft resolution (A/62/L.48) that awaits action by the General Assembly.

The Republic of Korea firmly believes that terrorism poses one of the gravest threats to international peace and security. Despite the resolute response of the international community to that scourge, terrorism has continued to torment the international community. Terrorism undermines the reconstruction and stabilization of war-torn countries. The increasing link between terrorism and transnational crime is alarming.

The Republic of Korea fully shares the global concern and has joined the international community in strongly condemning terrorism, irrespective of its forms and motivations. It is fully committed to preventing and combating that violent epidemic.

If we are to effectively respond to terrorist threats, comprehensive and systematic counter-terrorism efforts are required at the global level. The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy offers a solid basis for comprehensive and systematic counter-terrorism activities by the international community. The four pillars of the Strategy are mutually reinforcing and, thus, should be implemented in a coordinated and integrated manner. In that regard, the Republic of Korea strongly supports the Strategy and the complete implementation of its four pillars.

Furthermore, the harmonization of counter-terrorism measures and the exchange of the best practices of the various regions and Member States are important elements in the effort to cope with the threat of terrorism. In that regard, interaction between the United Nations and regional bodies and the Member States is essential to increase the synergy effect to address global terrorism.

There can be no possible justification for terrorism. However, the underlying conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism should be properly addressed in seeking sustainable solutions to the problem. The Republic of Korea has made efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism by promoting interreligious and intercultural tolerance. It has played an active part in the promotion of intercultural dialogue through the Asia Cooperation Dialogue, the Alliance of Civilizations and the Asia-Europe Meeting, to name but a few.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy underlines the link between development and the fight against terrorism. With that nexus in mind, the Republic of Korea has strived to support international efforts for poverty reduction, disease control, the development of human resources and sustainable development. In that regard, as of 2007 the Republic of Korea has tripled its official development assistance since 2000.

The Republic of Korea is well aware of the strong possibility of terrorists exploiting political, economic and social instability to incite hatred and instigate terrorist acts. In that regard, the prevention and resolution of conflicts are important elements in countering the threat of terrorism. The Republic of Korea has participated in 14 peacekeeping operations to date and has firmly supported United Nations peacebuilding initiatives.

Prevention should be ensured before attacks are committed. International legal norms can be instrumental in achieving that goal. The Republic of Korea is a party to 12 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and has signed the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism. It also supports the early conclusion of the comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Denying terrorists access to the resources used in carrying out their attacks is crucial to countering the threat of terrorism. Cutting off access to terrorist financing is of great importance as it can prevent terrorist schemes from advancing beyond the initial stages.

The Republic of Korea enacted the Prohibition of Financing for Offences of Public Intimidation Act in December 2007 to implement the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism. Additionally, it has strived to implement the 40+9 Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force.

The international community's dependence on information and communication technology has deepened. Accordingly, the possibility of social paralysis due to terrorist threats and attacks on cyberspace also grows stronger. To address that concern, the Republic of Korea has taken steps to enhance cybersecurity and support capacity-building activities in various regional forums.

Further, it believes that the institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force should be pursued in such a way as to improve overall coordination and coherence of counter-terrorism activities within the United Nations system.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy underscores the importance of capacity-building in all States in the fight against terrorism. The Republic of Korea also agrees on that point, as all countries of the world need to have a certain level of counter-terrorism capability in order for the international community to effectively combat the problem.

In that regard, the Republic of Korea makes efforts to help other States to build their State capacity by offering capacity-building assistance. The Republic of Korea has provided more than 20 counter-terrorism programmes to a number of countries. They cover a broad spectrum of projects in fighting against not only terrorism, but also crimes that might be connected to this issue.

The Republic of Korea supports efficient counter-terrorism capacity-building assistance activities. It believes that they can be achieved through the promotion of coordination and coherence by the United Nations. The Counter-Terrorism Committee of the Security Council should continue to improve the coherence and efficiency of technical assistance delivery for counter-terrorism capacity. We believe that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force should contribute to United Nations-centred comprehensive and efficient counter-terrorism capacity-building.

The Republic of Korea is convinced that effective counter-terrorism efforts and the protection of human rights are not contradictory but, rather, are mutually reinforcing. It supports the role of the United Nations system in consolidating the international legal framework by promoting the rule of law and human rights.

The Republic of Korea is a State party to major international legal instruments of human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law. It has endeavoured to ensure that its various counter-terrorism measures comply with obligations under those international legal instruments.

We are never alone in the fight against terrorism because we are all united under the goal of ensuring peace and security for the international community. With that goal in mind, the Republic of Korea takes this opportunity to reaffirm its strong commitment to the international community's efforts to combat terrorism.

Mr. Onemola (Nigeria): On behalf of the Nigerian delegation, I wish to express our appreciation to President Kerim and, through him, to the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, for the painstaking and wide consultations he undertook in the run-up to this debate in order to facilitate the drafting of an outcome document that would command the consensus of all delegations.

I also wish to express the appreciation of my delegation for the tireless efforts of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force and its various working groups, as well as the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), in the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy since its adoption in 2006.

Let me reiterate that Nigeria condemns acts of terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, irrespective of motive. We view acts of terrorism as threats to international peace and security, and Nigeria reaffirms its support for the counter-terrorism measures undertaken by the United Nations.

In September 2006, the General Assembly and United Nations Member States demonstrated their unity and resolve to combat terrorism by adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by consensus. The Strategy presents a welcome

opportunity to review past measures, correct shortcomings and fill gaps in the fight against terrorism by offering a comprehensive framework for a coherent international response to terrorism, with the United Nations at its heart.

The Strategy gives priority attention to addressing underlying conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, such as poverty, lack of good governance and social and economic marginalization. The Strategy also emphasizes the imperative of respecting human rights and the rule of law as a sine qua non to successfully combating terrorism. Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to fighting terrorism within the framework of the rule of law, respect for human rights and the universal instruments on terrorism.

Nigeria believes that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy remains a key political achievement that should be improved and built upon. This meeting provides the opportunity to examine the progress made in its implementation and to consider updating it to respond to changes that have taken place since its adoption. It is therefore our intention to share with other delegations the efforts and experiences we have gained and the challenges encountered in the process of implementing the Global Strategy.

Some of the measures adopted in Nigeria's efforts to implement the four pillars of the Global Strategy in combating terrorism include its ongoing support for and strengthening of the capacity of the United Nations in the areas of peacekeeping and peacebuilding, mindful of the fact that the Global Strategy recognizes that the peaceful resolution of unresolved conflicts contributes to strengthening the global fight against terrorism.

In the past two years, we have committed more troops and financial resources to the United Nations Advance Mission in the Sudan in the search for peace in the Darfur region of that country. We have effectively supported the work of the United Nations Peacebuilding Commission, especially in Guinea-Bissau. Nigeria has also supported the work of UNODC in strengthening justice, integrity and the rule of law, especially in post-conflict societies in Africa.

Nigeria is a multi-ethnic and multireligious society. Consequently, the promotion of tolerance, including religious tolerance, is one of the fundamental objectives and directive principles of State policy enshrined in chapter II of the Constitution of the Federal Republic of Nigeria of 1999. In that context, the Federal Government enlists the support of the media and targeted programmes to promote religious tolerance and dialogue among all faiths and ethnic nationalities with a view to preventing the defamation of religious values, beliefs and cultures. That approach is usually carried out through the continuous interreligious and intrareligious body meetings and the periodic organization of seminars on topical issues and developments that could lead to intolerance, disunity, violence and terrorism.

Incitement to commit offences related to terrorism is against the law in Nigeria. In addition, Nigeria does not provide a safe haven to terrorists or to those who incite others to commit terrorist or other criminal acts. Such individuals are prevented from entering Nigeria in the first instance through exchanges and information-sharing with other countries.

Nigeria has ratified nine of the universal instruments against terrorism, including the amendment to the Convention on the Physical Protection of Nuclear Material, which was ratified in April 2007, while the remaining instruments are at different stages of ratification.

A terrorism prevention bill is before the National Assembly. The focus of the bill is on all the wider issues addressed in Security Council resolution 1373 (2001), including specific provisions regarding the freezing, confiscation and repatriation of terrorist-related funds and assets. It also addresses the key issues addressed in some of the universal instruments against terrorism that are yet to be ratified by Nigeria. To discourage the organization, instigation, facilitation of and participation in the financing, encouragement or toleration of terrorist activities in the country, the Government recently prosecuted those suspected to be terrorists to serve as a deterrent to others.

The national focal point on counter-terrorism was established in 2006 and inaugurated in February 2007. It is made up of agencies and departments of Government with responsibilities for counter-terrorism and coordinates the policies and operational activities of those agencies. It has also established an internal mechanism for effective and efficient cooperation and coordination, thereby facilitating intelligence-sharing and dissemination of information.

The Robust Perception Management and Deradicalization programme is one of the major

ongoing preventive measures employed by the law enforcement agencies, and it has proved to be very effective. The programme uses the media, faith-based organizations and non-governmental organizations to address issues relating to the radicalization of our youth and the dangers of extremism. Programmes on counter-radicalization, aimed at addressing the factors that lead to religious intolerance, extremism and terrorism, are also in place. The Nigerian Cyber Working Group was established in 2006 to protect security and critical infrastructure from cyberterrorism and other cybercrimes.

Notwithstanding the strong measures we have taken to combat terrorism, we face a number of challenges, and in an effort to effectively tackle them we have been receiving technical assistance from the Terrorism Prevention Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) to strengthen our legal framework for fighting terrorism. Nigeria has also requested to be one of the beneficiaries of the integrated technical assistance being coordinated by the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force.

The Strategy enjoins Member States to encourage the other entities of the United Nations system to scale up cooperation and assistance in areas considered to be the softer and longer-term side of counter-terrorism — particularly in the fields of rule of law, human rights and good governance — to support sustained economic and social development. Nigeria is concerned that good brand names that have been developed over the years, that people can relate to and whose activities have little to do with fighting terrorism, could be jeopardized. While we recognize the important role that those United Nations entities could play in the fight against terrorism, this Assembly must ponder certain puzzles. Do we want to associate those United Nations entities and their services with combating terrorism? What kind of role should they be playing in combating terrorism? What should be the extent of their participation in the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force?

The Strategy welcomes the Secretary-General's institutionalization of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system. Nigeria supports that move and believes that the Task Force must be provided with assured and predictable resources to enable it to improve cooperation and coordination within the United Nations system on Strategy-related issues. It is in that regard that Nigeria underscores the imperative of allocating adequate resources through the regular budget to ensure the effectiveness of the Task Force. In addition, we call on all Member States to increase their voluntary contributions to boost technical assistance activities.

If the United Nations system is to maximize its contribution to Strategy implementation, there is a need to develop a sustainable and coordinated United Nations effort that works more effectively and efficiently with States and other stakeholders. In that context, Nigeria believes that a mechanism should be developed to enable Member States to provide guidance to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. That will also ensure that Member States take ownership of United Nations counter-terrorism activities.

As we call for better coordination of the activities of United Nations entities involved in counter-terrorism by the Task Force, we notice an institutional gap in the global response to terrorism. There is no forum in which a dialogue on a wide range of counter-terrorism issues beyond the narrow security and law enforcement arena can take place among countries of different regions. We believe that cross-regional dialogue should complement the efforts of the Task Force in our search for effective strategies to counter the growing radicalization and extremism that turn young people into terrorists. Furthermore, there is no forum in which counter-terrorism experts from different capitals can gather to share experiences and open-source information and to build confidence and trust among themselves. A global anti-terrorism body is required to fill those gaps in capabilities and limited cooperation at the international level, and the Assembly may wish to give thought to such an idea.

For us in Nigeria, the fight against terrorism is firmly anchored in the rule of law, respect for human rights and the commitment to the implementation of the universal instruments on terrorism. We should all hold ourselves to those high standards.

It is equally imperative for the global body, the United Nations, to ensure that its counter-terrorism institutions comply with the basic standards of human rights. In order to enhance United Nations efforts and impact in that area, it may be necessary to include human rights expertise on all Counter-Terrorism

Executive Directorate (CTED) site visits and UNODC Terrorism Prevention Branch training courses. We further suggest the introduction of short-term staff exchanges between the human rights and counter-terrorism arms of the United Nations and an increase in the Counter-Terrorism Committee/CTED human rights focus, including the enumeration of those rights that are non-derogable in the fight against terrorism.

In conclusion, the success of our efforts at fighting terrorism is related to our ability to successfully address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. While some delegations believe that addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism should be the focus of efforts to eradicate it, others place emphasis on the issues of good governance, democracy and human rights. In between those two positions we will find ways to promote the linkages between the Strategy and the two major United Nations initiatives that lie at the heart of efforts to address the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism: the Millennium Development Goals and the Alliance of Civilizations. Although the Global Strategy refers explicitly to both, it offers no guidance on how they relate in practical terms to the implementation of the Global Strategy. One of the crucial outcomes of this meeting should be to provide that missing guidance.

Mr. Slapničar (Slovenia): First, let me join other delegations in congratulating President Kerim on organizing today's meeting. Let me also use this opportunity to thank Ambassador Gert Rosenthal in his role as facilitator in preparing the draft resolution (A/62/L.48), which we fully endorse. In the interests of time, I shall shorten my statement; the full version is being distributed.

As Slovenia is a member of the European Union (EU), whose statement was delivered yesterday and with which we fully associate ourselves, allow me to make a couple of points from a national perspective and to present our national activities aimed at supporting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

Slovenia strongly condemns terrorism, and there is not and cannot be any justification for terrorism. Slovenia expresses solidarity with all countries that have been victims of terrorist attacks and also with the victims of terrorism. In that context, we welcome the symposium to be held next week in New York under the auspices of the Secretary-General.

The Strategy, adopted by consensus two years ago, represents a framework in which we are operating and cooperating. It is not a stand-alone document. It should be read in conjunction with other commitments in the United Nations framework, and also through our regular reporting to the Security Council's counter-terrorism bodies.

We all realize that the implementation of the Strategy is a long-term process that should be regularly reviewed. There are no quick-fix solutions to counter the scourge of terrorism. It is clear that the main responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy lies with the Member States. We are grateful to the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force for the support it has given to Member States and the results achieved towards greater coherence and coordination of counter-terrorism activities in the United Nations system. We understand that the current capacities of the Task Force are limited and therefore call upon the Secretary-General to finalize the institutionalization of the Task Force.

Allow me now to present some concrete national activities in support of the implementation of the Strategy. Slovenia is party to the relevant United Nations conventions and protocols and, in May, adopted amendments to its penal code by criminalizing acts of nuclear terrorism, which will enable us to ratify the Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism before the end of this year.

Under the first pillar of the plan of action, also in May, we adopted amendments to our penal code by defining incitement to acts of terrorism, as well as recruitment to and training for terrorism, as criminal offences. That will enable the ratification of the Council of Europe Convention on the Prevention of Terrorism of May 2006 and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1624 (2005).

Preventing terrorism through the promotion of respect for human rights, good governance, democracy, tolerance, education and economic prosperity is the proper way to proceed. It is important from the perspective of countering radicalization and recruitment and of addressing conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism.

In that context, let me mention the role of intercultural dialogue. We are pleased that awareness of the significance of such dialogue has been raised globally and that it enjoys growing political support, involving the policies of individual countries, regional structures and, globally, the Alliance of Civilizations initiative.

In June, the Euro-Mediterranean University was inaugurated, with its seat in Piran, Slovenia. Originally a Slovenian idea, it was endorsed by all Euro-Mediterranean partners. The University can contribute to understanding among people and encourage cooperation in higher education. Through a cooperation network of partner institutions and existing universities from the Euro-Mediterranean region, the University will develop postgraduate and research programmes.

Under the second and third pillars of the plan of action, we are engaged through bilateral agreements and regional cooperation. So far, Slovenia has concluded bilateral agreements with 20 States on cooperation between Governments or police authorities in suppressing crime, including the fight against terrorism.

Aware of the importance of regional and cross-regional cooperation, in 2007 Slovenia signed the Prüm Convention on deepening cross-border cooperation, in particular in the area of counter-terrorism, organized crime and illegal migration. Also in that vein, the Slovenian police organized a meeting of police officers from the Western Balkans involved in investigating criminal offences of terrorism at the national level. Police cooperation in preventing acts of terrorism and in counter-terrorist activities in the region is important.

In the summer of 2007, Slovenia adopted a new law on the prevention on money-laundering and terrorist financing. On the basis of that law, several executive regulations were adopted, and have been in force since then, to implement the special Recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force on Money-Laundering in their entirety.

Under the last pillar of the plan of action, we are faced with the constant challenge of how to strike a proper balance between security and human rights in order not to lower human rights standards. We highly value the work of Mr. Scheinin, Special Rapporteur on the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms while countering terrorism.

The fight against terrorism has many effects on not only political and civil rights, but also on economic, social and cultural rights. The newly established mechanism of the Universal Periodic Review provides a new opportunity to address issues of concern in an efficient manner. It should become a means effectively to implement the findings and recommendations of independent expert procedures.

Allow me to conclude by stressing that there should be no dilemma. Effective counter-terrorism measures and the protection of human rights are not and must not be conflicting; they are, rather, complementary and mutually reinforcing goals. It is also our values — respect for human rights standards and commitment to international law — that bind us in our actions in the fight against terrorism.

Mr. Argüello (Argentina) (*spoke in Spanish*): The adoption of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy marked a milestone in the treatment of that very complex subject by the General Assembly, the most authoritative democratic body of the United Nations system. It also represents a political agreement at the highest level to address the phenomenon of terrorism, which undermines and affects human dignity and all our societies without exception.

The international community has made progress, but the horrors of terrorism continue. Fundamentalisms of every kind combine with various factors to perpetuate terrorist acts, foreign occupation, the struggle for power or natural resources, poverty, political repression, crime and drug trafficking. The militarization of the fight against terrorism seems to produce even more terrorist acts. Terrorism must be dealt with as a criminal act to be judged or prosecuted in accordance with international and national law and in the greatest respect for human rights and international humanitarian law.

In implementing the Strategy, it is extremely important to provide resources and tools to States, which must work in conjunction with non-governmental organizations and the media. In particular, developing countries must have greater resources if they are to maintain administrative and justice systems and police forces that are efficient in terms of human resources and infrastructure. They must also have the resources to execute those laws, and that requires judges and prosecutors with the capacity and means. Thus, international cooperation and

technical assistance must focus on those aspects and on legal extradition mechanisms.

The Task Force can play a role in the international system to coordinate effectively the many international and regional agencies and bodies. The Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate has rationalized its workplan and must continue to improve its role. Closer links can be established between the Task Force and the Security Council committees that are involved in the fight against terrorism. I am referring to the Security Council Committees established pursuant to resolutions 1373 (2001), 1267 (1999) and 1540 (2004).

Argentina has experienced terrorism at first hand. We are firmly resolved to persevere in preventing and fighting terrorism in accordance with international law. We have ratified the 12 United Nations conventions on terrorism, and, internally, we have adopted the measures stipulated by those international instruments, such as, for example, amending our penal code by Law 26.268, adopted on 13 June 2007 to punish illegal terrorist associations and the financing of terrorism, and the National Agenda on Anti-Money-Laundering and Counter-Terrorism Financing under Decree 1225/2007, adopted on 11 September 2007. We are in the process of ratifying the International Convention for the Suppression of Acts of Nuclear Terrorism.

Even though the implementation of the Strategy is specifically a national activity, to be undertaken by States, we believe that is necessary to affirm that the main bodies of the United Nations also have an institutional responsibility to contribute effectively to eliminating international terrorism.

The Security Council must aim to resolve seriously, once and for all, the complex and protracted question of the Middle East, which serves as a background for the actions of the various terrorist groups. The principal organ in ensuring international peace and security must devote all its efforts to tackling one of the greatest sources of international terrorism.

For its part, the General Assembly must finally achieve a consensus to adopt the draft of the comprehensive convention against terrorism in the Sixth Committee. There are no legal arguments for not adopting the existing text of the draft and the latest compromise proposals. The positions maintained by a group of States are duly covered by the existing norms of international humanitarian law. Despite the fact that there is a comprehensive and mandatory regime established by Security Council resolution 1373 (2001) and that national legislation in most countries also deems terrorism a criminal offence, there is no doubt that a comprehensive convention is needed to improve the existing situation, which would dispel any doubts concerning terrorist actions and countries or groups that protect or provide refuge to terrorist groups.

Lastly, I would like to congratulate the President, and also the Ambassador of Guatemala, Gert Rosenthal, for his excellent work as facilitator of the draft resolution that will be adopted at the conclusion of this session.

Mr. Castellón Duarte (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I should like to begin by thanking the President for organizing this meeting, the Secretary-General for his report on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (A/62/898), and the Ambassador of Guatemala, Mr. Gert Rosenthal, the facilitator for negotiating the informal consultations of the draft resolution (A/62/L.48) that will be adopted by this General Assembly.

The foundations laid by the United Nations for a fight against terrorism were adopted on 8 September 2006 in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy (resolution 60/288). The international community adopted specific measures to combat the scourge in a coordinated way at the national, regional and international levels. The Strategy places great importance on the respect for human rights and for the rule of law. Nicaragua welcomed the Strategy, which provides a global response to a global problem. Its implementation should be a priority for all States.

Nicaragua vigorously and unequivocally condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, irrespective of its motivations, or by whom or where it is committed, including State terrorism. Given that its effects transcend national boundaries, we are firmly resolved to cooperate bilaterally, regionally and internationally to prevent and eliminate this scourge.

Terrorist acts are the clearest violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and human rights law, and cannot be justified in any way. Terrorism has a direct impact on the enjoyment of human rights, especially the right to life, freedom and the physical integrity of people. It is an

attack on democracy, the rule of law and the values, principles and purposes of the Charter of the United Nations and other international bodies.

Terrorism destabilizes Governments, undermines civil society and threatens peace and international security. Nicaragua is opposed to any attempt to link terrorism to a specific religion, civilization, culture, value system or ethnic group. My delegation believes that we must tackle the root causes of terrorism and, in that regard, eradicate the many factors that fuel terrorism, starting with the elimination of poverty, hunger, racism, unresolved conflicts and double standards in the application of international law.

We also believe that we must make a clear distinction between terrorist acts and the legitimate struggle of peoples for self-determination. Likewise, we resolutely call for the conclusion of negotiations on the comprehensive convention. It would be appropriate to consider holding a high-level conference under the auspices of the United Nations that would provide the opportunity to rectify the existing shortcomings and to agree on a definition of terrorism, which would clearly speed up concluding the convention.

The legislative base for the fight against terrorism must also be strengthened, fostering support for international conventions in that area. Nicaragua is party to 11 of the 13 conventions of the United Nations system in the fight against terrorism and to two conventions of the inter-American system.

In Nicaragua's new penal code, which came into force on 9 July 2008, we categorize the crimes of terrorism, the financing of terrorism, hostage-taking and inciting, planning and conspiring to commit terrorist acts.

Nicaragua established a national committee to implement the Central American plan for comprehensive cooperation to prevent and counter terrorism and related activities and has adopted a set of measures in compliance with the plan.

Through its intelligence organs, Nicaragua has worked for the adoption of cooperation agreements with counterparts in the other countries with which it maintains a network for the exchange of information and cooperation on terrorism and organized crime. The immigration and foreign visitors directorate of my country has an electronic database which is updated with information provided by the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee, in compliance with resolution 1267 (1999), on restrictions on entry into the country of persons considered terrorists or who belong to entities associated with the Taliban or Al-Qaida.

We wish to stress the crucial role of the General Assembly in the fight against terrorism as the only body of the United Nations that enjoys universal membership. The adoption today by consensus of draft resolution A/62/L.48, on the review of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy will be a demonstration of the unity of the international community in its struggle against terrorism in all of its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Onischenko (Ukraine): Today we have a unique opportunity to review the multiple aspects of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. This forum also presents an opportunity to continue strengthening international cooperation in the implementation of this universal document and to address related outstanding issues. There are several lessons that can be drawn from such an intense consideration of views and ideas.

We are convinced that by adopting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, the General Assembly has made a concrete contribution towards combating terrorism in a coordinated manner at the national, regional and international levels. My delegation believes that beyond the immediate aspect of combating terrorism, any country should also find ways to resolve the root causes of terrorism. Among those causes, extreme poverty, an unjust social system, corruption, violations of human rights and discrimination can easily be cited. Regional conflicts are also considered to provide suitable tools for acts of terrorism and for the operations of terrorist organizations.

My country joined the anti-terrorism coalition at its inception and has made a significant contribution to its activities. As early as December 1998, a presidential decree established the Anti-Terrorism Centre under the Security Service of Ukraine, whose primary responsibility is to coordinate the efforts of the executive authorities in the prevention and interdiction of terrorist acts against State officials, facilities crucial to public welfare and particularly hazardous facilities that could threaten the life and health of individuals.

Nowadays, Ukraine is fully implementing all the agreed measures to combat and prevent terrorism identified in the Strategy. In 2008, Ukraine adopted the

programme on counter-terrorism measures for 2008 to 2010 in order to establish preventive measures, to improve the protection of individuals and preserve their health, to strengthen civil security, to improve the protection of particularly important sites and to prevent any manifestation of terrorism in our country.

Our position on the subject of international terrorism is based on an ethical principle: the unequivocal condemnation of all acts, methods and practices of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, wherever, by whomever and for whatever reason they may be committed. Consequently, Ukraine's legal system enables it to prevent, prosecute and suppress terrorism and to punish anyone who commits or is associated with terrorist acts. For instance, article 258, the terrorist act of the Criminal Code of Ukraine, establishes liability not only for the direct perpetration of a terrorist act or preparations for such an act, but also for organizational, material or other assistance for the activities of a terrorist organization.

Our special agencies have developed preventionary measures to prevent the use of the Ukrainian segment of the Internet by terrorist organizations for the purpose of disseminating propaganda by drawing up a list of features whose presence or absence points to the use of Internet channels for illicit purposes and by establishing legal mechanisms to enable appropriate search operations.

My delegation is of the view that implementation of the principles and norms derived from various branches of international law provides a powerful tool in the prevention and punishment of terrorist acts. For that reason, all 13 international anti-terrorism treaties have been ratified by the Ukrainian Parliament during the last five years.

No strategy against terrorism can be effective unless it is based on international cooperation and coordination. On the basis of the Strategy and Security Council resolutions, the Government of Ukraine is considering various forms of involvement in European and other international arrangements to combat terrorism and to develop cooperation with the law enforcement agencies and special services of other countries.

As part of the international cooperation under the bilateral and multilateral treaties entered into by Ukraine, work on the exchange of information relating to the prevention of terrorism in conjunction with foreign law enforcement agencies, special services and international organizations working to combat international terrorism has been intensified with a view to preventing the entry into Ukrainian territory of individuals involved in the activities of international terrorist and religious extremist organizations. In that connection, in 2008 the security service of Ukraine organized and conducted working meetings with representatives of special services and law enforcement agencies of 12 countries. Ukraine has also concluded more than 88 protocols and 75 interdepartmental agreements in which priority attention is focused on issues of combating international terrorism.

As an active member of the GUAM Organization for Democracy and Economic Development, Ukraine, together with other members of this regional organization, is continuing the implementation of two projects in the area of counter-terrorism and border security — the project on establishing the GUAM virtual centre for combating terrorism, organized crime, drug trafficking and other dangerous types of crimes, and the project on the creation of the GUAM Inter-State Information Management System — the IIMS. The virtual centre serves as a focal point for online communication, analysis and exchange of operational information on law enforcement activities, as well as facilitation of joint operations and coordination of major crime investigations. The IIMS is an information backup and support system that enables the relevant authorities in our countries to exchange data and other information through a protected satellite communications channel.

At the governmental level, we support international anti-terrorist efforts, in particular by participating in the Global Initiative to Combat Nuclear Terrorism. Last autumn in Ukraine, we organized the Third International Forum on Counteraction Measures to Acts of Nuclear Terrorism, with the participation of civil society, scholars and non-governmental organizations.

Terrorism is not only a threat to all societies, but also an attack on the values that define the international community: the rule of law, respect for human rights, the protection of civilians, intercultural faith and tolerance. Counter-terrorism efforts can best succeed if they are carried out on all fronts and in all countries. We believe that the adoption of the draft resolution on the United Nations Global Counter-

Terrorism Strategy today, during the current session of the General Assembly, would be a starting point for assessing the counter-terrorism measures taken by each State.

Mr. Livshiz (Palau): We would like to thank you, Sir, for chairing this important meeting.

As we have said on many occasions, the effective elimination of international terrorism is one of the greatest challenges facing the international community in the twenty-first century. We believe that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy is an important component of that vital battle, and we are very happy at this opportunity to report on Palau's progress in implementing the Strategy.

We would like to thank the Secretary-General for his extensive report detailing the steps taken by the international community to implement the Strategy (A/62/898) and to thank Ambassador Rosenthal for his impressive efforts in facilitating the negotiations on the draft resolution that we hope to adopt today.

Palau welcomes the reaffirmation by the General Assembly of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Palau, like many other small countries, is committed to playing an active and aggressive role in the global counter-terrorism effort. We recognize not only that international terrorism is a threat to major Powers such as the United States, the European Union and the Russian Federation, but also that it threatens all States, no matter what their size. Moreover, as a small State largely dependent on tourism for the success of our economy, we recognize that even a single terrorist attack on our soil may be one too many, as it would have a significant negative effect on our developing economy.

For those reasons, Palau has made a serious commitment to combating terrorism. We have demonstrated that commitment by becoming a State party to 12 counter-terrorism conventions recommended by the Secretary-General. We have fulfilled our reporting requirements under Security Council resolutions 1267 (1999), 1373 (2001), 1540 (2004) and 1624 (2005). Moreover, we have taken steps to fulfil the obligations set out in those resolutions, including passing legislation aimed at deterring and stopping money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.

Yet, we know that more can and must be done. We know that, if our ability to fight terrorism is to be sustainable, we need to build our local capacity, and so we welcome the assistance of the international community in this fight. To that end, we have actively and extensively engaged with the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED) in an effort to develop additional capacity. Regrettably, we cannot say that CTED has been equal to the task. While we have had numerous exchanges of e-mails and calls as well as many meetings, the result has been the same: lots of talk, but no action. For us, the inability to obtain the capacity we seek is not a theoretical problem; it is real and, if left unresolved, may pose a threat to our very ability to develop our economy.

Owing to our limited capacity, we have found it very difficult to take the full range of actions that we would like to take against the pernicious threat posed by international terrorism. I know that Palau is not alone in that situation. Many small States have the desire but not the resources to take the aggressive actions that they would like to take against international terrorism.

Everyone in this Hall would agree that, so long as any State is in danger, we are all in danger. We must continue to understand that terrorists who attack civilians around the world often funnel their money through distant banking sectors and train in equally distant places. Terrorism is a global problem and must be addressed as such. As long as some countries are unable to fight terrorism effectively, no country in the world will be wholly safe from such deplorable behaviour.

We therefore wholly support the efforts undertaken to develop effective capacity-building assistance in a wide variety of areas. From promoting the rule of law and human rights to developing effective strategies, dealing with such long-term problems as money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, and improving the protection of soft targets — Palau supports all those measures.

Despite the progress that the international community has made, there remains a lot of room for improvement. In particular, Palau believes that two important issues have been overlooked. First, we note that much of the Strategy refers to — if not depends on — the work of various United Nations partner agencies and the assistance that they offer to countries

seeking to develop adequate capacity. However, gaining access to those agencies is not always possible for small nations such as Palau. While partner agencies' expertise and willingness to provide support are a good start, membership in those organizations is not universal. In particular, many small States find joining them to be out of reach because of the financial burden that such membership entails. For example, Palau has examined the possibility of becoming a member of INTERPOL, an organization whose efforts are critical to fighting terrorism effectively and whose efforts are even noted in the Secretary-General's report. However, the cost of membership in INTERPOL is prohibitive, so we remain unable to gain access to its expertise and resources. While we understand the need to avoid reinventing the wheel in developing technical assistance, we hope that our colleagues will take note of the difficulties faced by small developing States and that they will find a way to make technical assistance available to all in that critical area.

Secondly, as we have said before, we would like to note that the United Nations needs to take an active role in helping States carry out the legal obligations that they have undertaken. In the past, much of the attention devoted by the United Nations to capacity-building has focused on providing assistance to States in drafting legislation or regulations or in compiling a list of best practices in a particular area. While that is an excellent and necessary first step, it is not sufficient to develop the local capacity needed to fight terrorism effectively.

We must admit that the best-designed legislation is meaningless unless States have adequate resources to act effectively and competently in enforcing it. For example, in the area of money-laundering and the financing of terrorism, Palau has enacted legislation and accompanying regulations that are designed to comply with all applicable international standards. However, we find our capacity to act in that area to be severely hampered by our inability to adequately fund and staff the financial intelligence unit with people who are qualified and able to work effectively in that very specialized area. In order to forge an effective counter-terrorism strategy, the international community must find a way to help smaller States such as Palau, which have the desire but lack the resources to develop the capacity to take effective action against terrorism.

Once again, we express the hope that our colleagues will take note of the unique challenges faced by small developing States and that they will, together with us, find a way to make technical assistance available to all in that critical area. We must think about ways in which that can be accomplished. One possibility is to establish a trust fund that would allow small States to develop effective counter-terrorism initiatives and to pay dues to the vital organizations that assist them.

Despite the deficiencies that we have identified, we are encouraged by the amount of progress that we, as the international community, have made in the intervening two years. We hope that the United Nations will be able to take further action in implementing the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, in particular by helping small States to meet their obligations not only in word but also, and more important, in deed. Palau stands ready to do all that we can to support that effort.

Mr. Maqungo (South Africa): It is an honour to participate in this review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which was adopted under resolution 60/288. I also want to take this opportunity to thank Ambassador Gert Rosenthal of Guatemala for his facilitation of the informal consultations that preceded this review.

At the outset, my delegation wishes to reiterate its previously stated position that acts of terrorism should be condemned unequivocally. We continue to pledge our support for the global campaign against terrorism within the framework of the United Nations and its structures.

Essentially, this review is aimed at assessing what Member States have done in the implementation of the Global Strategy, and my delegation would like to take this opportunity to highlight a few important steps that the Government of South Africa has taken.

In developing its anti-terrorism strategy, the Government of South Africa was clear that it would not only address the symptoms of the problem, but would also address the causes to ensure that, as far as possible, there are no recurrences. That approach was evident in the manner in which our security and law enforcement services combated terrorism in the mid-1990s within our territory.

South Africa's anti-terrorism strategy is also premised on the need to guarantee due process. The

Protection of Constitutional Democracy against Terrorism and Related Activities Act was adopted in 2004 with that in mind. That piece of legislation not only allows the security and law enforcement services to implement effective measures to combat terrorism, but also denies terrorists the ability to procure material and human resources. Furthermore, that legislation, together with our Constitution and Bill of Rights, also guarantees certain basic rights for those suspected of being involved in terrorism. South Africa is therefore implementing the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy in a manner consistent with international law, and even our courts have weighed in to ensure that when the South African Government cooperates with other Governments, it insists upon respect for human rights.

The Government of South Africa has continuously strived to improve the capacity of its security and law enforcement services and its prosecuting authority to combat serious crimes, including terrorism. Extensive capacity-building programmes have been implemented in the field of forensics, financial investigations and tactical response capabilities. Joint programmes with security and law enforcement services in the Southern African subregion have ensured skills development for all participants and have denied terrorists and organized crime groups access to weapons and safe havens.

In the international arena, South Africa is also a party to the 13 universal conventions on terrorism and has taken concrete steps to include the provisions of those conventions in national legislation. South Africa's commitment to strengthen the international efforts to combat terrorism was further demonstrated when it invited the Security Council's Counter-Terrorism Committee to conduct a country visit during June 2008. That was an opportunity for the Government of South Africa to detail its anti-terrorism strategy to the United Nations experts, and it also afforded us the opportunity to learn from best practices elsewhere in the world. Noteworthy in that regard is that South Africa is the first country to be visited that agreed to the inclusion of a human rights expert in the Counter-Terrorism Committee delegation. That was important, as it is the firm position of the Government of South Africa that the observance of human rights is the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

South Africa also hosted the Financial Action Task Force on Money Laundering, which conducted a mutual evaluation inspection visit to assess South Africa's implementation of the Task Force's recommendations, including those dealing with the combating of the financing of terrorism. South Africa has also been actively participating in the counter-terrorism initiatives of the African Union. Additionally, high-level Government representatives have been participating in international events hosted by other Member States aimed at the implementation of the Strategy.

I would be remiss if I did not refer to the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The Secretariat, in particular Mr. Robert Orr and his team, have — notwithstanding certain constraints — done sterling work in bringing about greater cohesion within the United Nations system regarding counter-terrorism activities. However, much still needs to be done, and we would urge greater interaction between the working groups of the Task Force and Member States. Resolution 60/288 provided for the institutionalization of the Task Force, and very little progress has been made since then. My delegation therefore supports the call for the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to carry out that institutionalization, and we are hopeful that concrete and practical steps will have been taken prior to the next review of the Strategy.

The Government of South Africa is acutely aware of the fact that much still needs to be done at domestic and international levels to improve responses to and address the causes of terrorism. We remain committed to working with the international community to eradicate the scourge of terrorism in a comprehensive and non-selective manner. The Government of South Africa therefore re-commits itself to continue to implement the Strategy.

Mr. Ettalhi (Libyan Arab Jamahiriya) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like first to thank Mr. Ban Ki-moon for his outstanding report and the President of the Assembly for having organized this important meeting. I should also like to thank Mr. Gert Rosenthal, the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, who guided the discussions preceding this meeting. I would like to affirm the full support of my delegation for the statements made by the representatives of Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, Kuwait on behalf of the Arab Group and Guinea on behalf of the African Group.

Today's meeting is devoted to the consideration of the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy within the framework of previous resolutions, in particular 60/288, and to the contents of the report of the Secretary-General. The resolution I just cited states that the Strategy is based on four pillars: measures to eliminate the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism; measures to combat and to eliminate terrorism; expanding the means available to States to prevent and combat terrorism and strengthening the role played to that end by the United Nations; and measures to guarantee respect for human rights and the primacy of law as the fundamental basis for the anti-terrorist struggle. The implementation of all the pillars is without a doubt a top priority in all our legal, moral and religious commitments. They must be given absolute priority in our work.

My country, while recognizing the progress made and the efforts undertaken to strengthen the implementation of all measures set out in the Strategy, believes that those efforts continue to fall short of the hopes and objectives embodied in it. We continue to await practical measures to ensure the Strategy's implementation, in particular with regard to the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism. Our unanimous rejection of any justification for terrorism must not mean that we should fail to consider its root causes objectively. The occupation and demonization of civilizations and cultures, the denial of the legitimacy of resistance, and double standards in implementing the resolutions of international legitimacy all give rise to tensions, violence and counter-violence. The need for such legitimacy cannot be met through selective initiatives that focus on some victims and exclude others. In that regard, I should like to draw the attention of members to the symposium on the victims of terrorism to be held at United Nations Headquarters at the initiative of the Secretary-General. Sympathy for the victims of terrorism must not make us ignore the victims of State terrorism and practices that violate all the principles of international humanitarian law.

The fight against terrorism also requires more comprehensive and effective measures at the national and international levels. Without going into detail, we wish to express our belief that preventing the financing of terrorism requires particular attention and more comprehensive and effective measures. My country believes that General Assembly resolution 60/43 on measures to eliminate international terrorism and all measures taken at the national and international levels to directly or indirectly impede the financing of terrorism — in particular when it is carried out by organizations involved in illegal activity such as, inter alia, trafficking in drugs or weapons, racketeering and laundering money that can be used for terrorist acts — must be fully strengthened and implemented at the national, international and global levels in a spirit of sincerity and effectiveness. We believe that the United Nations, in particular the General Assembly, must accord particular attention to the issue of the financing of terrorism and undertake stricter measures to control the movement and utilization of capital through the efforts of transparent financial institutions committed to eradicating that phenomenon. That would be a crucial element in the maintenance of international peace and security.

More specifically, banking practices in certain countries and free zones must be taken into account. The measure set out in the Strategy regarding the refusal of asylum should be clarified in the spirit of the noble humanitarian objectives that inspired the creation of the right to asylum. We must also make greater efforts to strengthen the capacities of States to combat and eradicate terrorism and to fulfil international commitments in a transparent manner, which would be an essential step in eradicating the phenomenon of terrorism as well as its symptoms and causes.

For those reasons, my country has endorsed the various positions condemning terrorism and has acceded to all international and regional instruments and arrangements to combat that scourge. We shall continue to support the implementation of all measures set out in the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. We call once again for the conclusion of the negotiations on a draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism and for the holding of a special session of the General Assembly devoted to the study of terrorism and to finding a clear definition for it. My country is prepared to support all efforts of the international community to eradicate terrorism and to create a world of peace and security for all peoples.

Mr. Ali (Malaysia): I should like at the outset to express my delegation's appreciation to President Kerim for convening this meeting to review the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. I should also like to express, through the presidency, my

delegation's appreciation to Ambassador Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala, for his tireless work as facilitator of the draft resolution on the review of the Strategy. The negotiations on the draft resolution were most demanding, but Ambassador Rosenthal's patience and his understanding of the complexity of the matter were no doubt factors contributing to the final outcome of the draft resolution.

I wish to align my delegation with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Two years have passed since we adopted resolution 60/288, on the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. After much envelope-pushing and boundary-stretching, we adopted the resolution by consensus. At least two clear points emerged from the resolution.

First, the Strategy prescribed a course of action for all States Members of the United Nations without properly and concisely defining the concept of terrorism. That subject matter, as we know, has been around the proverbial block many times, with differing views as to what the definition of terrorism should be. So that the Strategy could be born, the resolution therefore skirted the issue.

Secondly, the Strategy brought other players into the counter-terrorism effort. Terrorism has long been accepted as a "high politics" issue, interlinked with a country's sovereignty and independence. But the Strategy also prescribed that Member States utilize the vast network of civil society in order to combat terrorism and find a solution for that global problem.

The adoption of the resolution in no way means that the Strategy is a be-all and end-all in terms of counter-terrorism measures. Rather, the term "living document" was used to denote that the Strategy was not cast in stone but was to be reviewed and updated, as the case might be. This year, the Strategy is being taken off the mantelpiece and examined for the first time. Therefore, it is doubly important that we, as Member States, provide a scorecard of the work that has been undertaken during the two years since the Strategy was adopted.

The establishment of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force by the Secretary-General in 2005 was an attempt to ensure coordinated and coherent efforts across the United Nations system to counter terrorism. It includes representatives of various United Nations departments, specialized agencies, international organizations and the World Bank.

The adoption of the Strategy in 2006 provided greater impetus for the work of the Task Force, including towards its institutionalization. From the very beginning, Malaysia has maintained the view that the Task Force should be part of the Secretariat and accountable to Member States. In that connection, the process of institutionalizing the Task Force should take place with the full participation of and in consultation with Member States. Among the issues that need to be looked into is the fate of the nine unmandated working groups that were established by the Task Force.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy reaffirmed the efforts undertaken by Malaysia in counter-terrorism. For 40 years, beginning in 1948, Malaysia waged a silent but effective war against terrorism, guided by the principle of winning the people's hearts and minds and thereby closing off terrorist support. In 1989, Malaysia won its battle against those terrorists, who had been plotting since our independence in 1957 to negate Malaysia's sovereignty.

Despite the good progress made on counter-terrorism in our country, we continue to be mindful that terrorism could return to plague us if we let our guard down. In that regard, we remain of the view that it is important for Member States to continue to exchange information, including experiences on counter-terrorism efforts. Malaysia has gained much experience and many lessons from our counter-terrorism efforts, which we are willing to share with other Member States in our effort to fight the scourge of terrorism.

Malaysia now plays host to the Southeast Asia Regional Centre for Counter-Terrorism, which provides counter-terrorism training and capacity-building to enforcement and security officials in the South-East Asian region. Between 2006 and 2008, a total of 30 courses were conducted by the Centre, including on issues such as terrorism financing, fraudulent travel documents, maritime security, anti-terrorism laws, management of mass casualties and mass transit security. Participants include those from South-East Asia and outside the region.

Malaysia continues to undertake other measures in our counter-terrorism efforts. The advent of the information and communication age brings with it a new form of terrorism, which has permeated many aspects of our lives. With the ever-increasing dependence on information and communication technology, terrorists have taken advantage of the cyberage to spread their destructive tentacles. Unless that fact is addressed, particularly at its core, it could have deeply catastrophic effects. In view of that new form of terrorism and the need to address it quickly, Malaysia initiated the International Multilateral Partnership against Cyber-Terrorism (IMPACT), dedicated to bringing together Governments, industry leaders and cybersecurity experts to enhance the global community's capacity to prevent, defend and respond to cyberthreats. IMPACT is the first public-private initiative against cyberterrorism.

Malaysia remains committed in its fight against terrorism and will continue to place emphasis on counter-terrorism efforts. The Anti-Money-Laundering Amendment Act of Malaysia, which came into force in 2007, facilitated Malaysia's obligations under the International Convention for the Suppression of the Financing of Terrorism and allowed us to ratify the Convention. Malaysia has also ratified the Convention on the Marking of Plastic Explosives for the Purpose of Detection and is thus now a party to nine of the 13 international instruments on terrorism. We continue to take the necessary measures to ensure that Malaysia is on track to accede to all the international instruments on terrorism.

Terrorism is a plague that continues to evolve over time and space, taking on many forms and shapes. Continuous attention must be paid to it, as to any disease, through various strategies to ensure that it remains checked at all times. In our continued quest to address that scourge, including through the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, we should be mindful that the Strategy is not static. It should continue to evolve. As such, the Strategy should continue to be a living document, a work in progress. There are gaps in its formulation that remain to be filled, and much work still needs to be done. The international community must apply itself, and it must apply itself diligently, to that task. Otherwise, we risk prescribing the wrong medication for an improperly diagnosed disease.

The meeting rose at 1.05 p.m.

United Nations A/62/PV.120

General Assembly

Sixty-second session

Official Records

120th plenary meeting
Friday, 5 September 2008, 3 p.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kerim ..... (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

In the absence of the President, Mr. Al Bayati (Iraq), Vice-President, took the Chair.

The meeting was called to order at 3.10 p.m.

Agenda item 118 (*continued*)

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy

Report of the Secretary-General (A/62/898)

Draft resolution (A/62/L.48)

Mr. Adi (Syrian Arab Republic) (*spoke in Arabic*): I would like at the outset to extend my thanks to the President of the Assembly for holding this important meeting. My delegation would like to thank Mr. Gert Rosenthal, the Permanent Representative of Guatemala, for his efforts to facilitate negotiations on reaching a consensus on the draft resolution that will be adopted at the end of this meeting. My delegation would also like to align itself with the statements made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference and by the Permanent Representative of Kuwait on behalf of the Arab Group.

I would like to emphasize the principles position of my country, which condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, whatever its source and whoever its perpetrators, be they individuals, groups or States. Since 1986, the Syrian Arab Republic has been a consistent pioneer in calling for the holding of an international conference to agree on a definition of terrorism. Such a definition would distinguish between terrorism and the right of peoples to self-determination and the struggle to achieve their independence, in order to preserve and safeguard the norms of international law from politicization and to protect just causes from any attempt to misinterpret and undermine them on the pretext of combating terrorism.

In the fight against terrorism, we have always striven to find a solid basis for genuine cooperation among all States within the framework of the resolutions of international legitimacy. We must prevent counter-terrorism efforts from being exploited for particular political gains, at the expense of just causes. Syria supports the consensus adoption of comprehensive, clear and unequivocal concepts in a Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy that cannot be easily utilized to serve dubious motives and agendas or to violate the fundamental principles of the Charter of the United Nations, in a manner that has nothing to do with combating terrorism.

Syria supports sincere international efforts to combat terrorism and to address its root causes. We emphasize the need to implement the measures set out in the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy to address the conditions and factors conducive to the spread of terrorism. I wish to reiterate that the Strategy does not obviate the need for a clear legal definition of terrorism that takes into account all aspects of that condemnable act and distinguishes it from the legitimate right of peoples to resist occupation and liberate their lands. Therefore, we call for the

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conclusion of negotiations on the draft comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Syria believes that, if the Strategy is to be successful, it must tackle the root causes of terrorism, among the most important of which is foreign occupation. Unfortunately, the Strategy does not contain any clear measures or implementable language to put an end to occupation. It fails to clearly define State terrorism and refers only briefly to that very important concept, whereas addressing terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including State terrorism, is a prerequisite for any global counter-terrorism strategy.

We believe that it is counterproductive to try to combat terrorism by using excessive force. Today, because of the use of excessive force and violence, terrorism has spread to areas where it was not found before. That is making the world less secure with every passing day — a reality that is felt most keenly in our region. While we call upon all States to cooperate in the fight against terrorism, we warn against the use of counter-terrorism as a pretext for exploiting the rights of peoples and for sowing hatred among religions, cultures and civilizations, rather than promoting dialogue among them for the benefit of all humanity.

In that context, I should like to emphasize that we reject all attempts to link terrorism to any particular religion, ethnic group, culture, language or nationality. The fight against international terrorism must be carried out in full conformity with the Charter and with the relevant provisions of human rights and international humanitarian law.

My delegation wishes to stress that the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy must be implemented in a comprehensive and non-selective manner. In that context, we should like to emphasize that the Strategy adopted as resolution 60/288 is a vital and active document that must be implemented in all its aspects as well as periodically reviewed and updated. My delegation would like to emphasize the central role of the General Assembly in the fight against terrorism. In that connection, we wish to recall that the Strategy is owned by all Member States and therefore that all of them must participate in all decisions concerning its full implementation.

My delegation believes that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force should continue to work within the mandate entrusted to it by the General Assembly and undertake its tasks after consulting with Member States and accepting their guidelines for its work. In that connection, my delegation believes that any meeting, event or activity concerning the Global Strategy should be carried out only after transparent discussions with all Member States within the framework of the United Nations. That would ensure the comprehensive implementation of all four pillars of the Strategy and would prevent politicization and partiality in such implementation.

With regard to the Secretary-General's planned symposium on the victims of terrorism, my country expresses its deep sympathy for the victims of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, including the victims of State terrorism as well as those who have become victims of counter-terrorism measures that violate human rights or international humanitarian law. My delegation had hoped that preparations for the symposium would be carried out in a transparent, consensual and unhurried manner in order to achieve consensus, so that it would not undermine the noble principle of assisting the victims of terrorism from the humanitarian perspective.

When the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy was adopted in 2006, Syria joined the consensus, despite the critical comments made by my delegation and many others during the discussions. Those comments did not find their way into the document, which finally attracted a consensus because many participants were committed to the principle of consensus. Syria joined the international consensus because of its principled support for all counter-terrorism efforts and its understanding that any strategy would be an important tool in facilitating cooperation among States on such efforts.

Syria supports the draft resolution to be adopted at the end of this meeting. After participating actively in the initial discussions, we were very keen to ensure that the draft resolution would be more comprehensive and profound so that it would fully meet the concerns of many delegations, including my own, in particular with regard to the need to address the root causes of terrorism, including the illegitimate use of force, aggression and foreign occupation, the denial of the right of peoples to self-determination and the lack of social and economic justice.

Mr. Khaleel (Maldives): Let me begin by expressing my delegation's appreciation to the

President for convening this meeting of the General Assembly to review the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Let me also join previous speakers in congratulating Ambassador Gert Rosenthal of Guatemala on the exemplary manner in which he facilitated the negotiations on the draft resolution (A/62/L.48) before us today. My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Terrorism has always haunted the human race in one form or another, yet never before have we witnessed such organized, frequent and lethal acts of terrorism, threatening international peace and security. The threat of terrorism is no longer restricted to certain countries or regions of the world. Acts of terrorism are affecting us all, irrespective of our physical size, economic strength, political power or military might. Thus, fighting the menace in all its forms and manifestations is the collective responsibility of the entire international community.

Today, a large part of the United Nations membership comprises small States, which often do not have the resources or the means to defend themselves from the new and emerging threats, including the many and varied forms of terrorism and the activities of organized crime. Some of today's terrorist organizations and organized transnational crime syndicates have at their disposal far greater resources and means than some of the small sovereign States Members of the United Nations.

As the members of this Assembly are well aware, two decades ago a group of armed terrorists from a neighbouring country launched an attack on the Maldives with the aim of invading and converting it into a terrorist safe haven and staging ground for terrorist activities against their own country. Ever since that fatal incident, which we quelled with the help of our good friend and ally, India, the Maldives has continued to advocate the need for effective multilateral cooperation to support small States in protecting their sovereignty and territorial integrity — an arrangement that could respond with urgency and commitment, without any bias, regardless of the strategic location, economic significance or political importance of the State.

The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy gives us much hope in that regard. The four pillars on which the Strategy is based and their universal acceptance constitute its strength. We are happy that the Strategy pays considerable attention to capacity-building and the creation of an enabling environment conducive to preventing and fighting against that menace.

The Maldives has consistently supported significant international measures aimed at combating international terrorism. We sincerely believe that acts of terrorism committed to instil fear and terror by whomever, wherever and for whatever purpose cannot be justified or condoned under any circumstances.

The Maldives is now a party to almost all major international conventions and protocols forming the international anti-terrorism regime. We are also a party to the Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism of the South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC) and its Additional Protocol. We believe that closer cooperation at the regional level is necessary in order to set up effective security arrangements and legal frameworks that complement our efforts at the international level. We hope that the SAARC Convention on Mutual Legal Assistance in Criminal Matters, adopted at the SAARC summit recently held in Colombo, will complement our efforts for greater regional cooperation in the fight against terrorism in South Asia.

Given their meagre human and financial resources, for many small States like the Maldives, combating the increased activities of international terrorism has been an uphill battle. Fulfilling the numerous obligations under the various Security Council and General Assembly resolutions has not been an easy task. At present, therefore, we are working with our neighbours and friendly countries, as well as concerned regional and international organizations, in strengthening our institutional capacity to ensure that our obligations under the various international and regional conventions and protocols are implemented and incorporated into our domestic laws.

In particular, I am happy to note the cooperation and guidance that we are receiving from the experts of the Security Council Counter-Terrorism Committee and the Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004). We are now in the process of submitting the necessary reports under Security Council resolutions 1373 (2001) and 1540 (2004).

We must remember that international terrorists are the enemies of international peace and security. The sole purpose of those non-State actors is to disrupt the harmonious operation of the international system. Those enemies of peace have no regard for religious creed, nor do they concern themselves with the safety of innocent people in the selfish pursuit of their agendas.

Fighting this global aberration requires our unwavering commitment, unity and cooperation. Identifying and addressing the root causes of terrorism will be critical in that fight. On behalf of my country, I assure the Assembly of our resolve to do our part in that joint effort to fight that international scourge.

Mr. Olago Owuor (Kenya): My delegation joins others in thanking the President of the Assembly for convening this meeting on an important subject that is dear to the hearts of many Kenyans. We also wish to thank him for his opening remarks and the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report (A/62/898) outlining the activities of the Organization in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. At the outset, we associate ourselves with the statement made by the representative of Guinea on behalf of the African Group.

International terrorism remains one of the most serious threats to global peace and stability. It undermines the values enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations with respect to human rights, the rule of law, the protection of civilians, tolerance among peoples and nations, and the peaceful resolution of conflicts. Experience shows that terrorism knows no frontiers. It does not discriminate on the basis of religion, nationality, colour or sex. It makes no distinction between developed and developing countries. In a nutshell, no one and no country is immune from acts of terrorism.

We appreciate the efforts made by States Members at the national, regional and international levels to combat terrorism. We reiterate our support for the four pillars that form the basis of the Strategy for fighting terrorism and the work of the United Nations Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force to coordinate system-wide efforts to implement the Strategy. The Task Force has been useful in providing technical assistance to Member States in their quests to combat terrorism. However, it needs to be strengthened to be more efficient in its functioning. We therefore support its institutionalization and urge adequate resource allocation for it to function properly.

It is generally understood that however powerful or good a strategy may be, if it is not regularly reviewed and updated it may not yield good results. In view of that, and due to the importance Kenya attaches to this issue, we welcome this high-level meeting to review the implementation of the Strategy. We believe that the time is ripe for States to update the Strategy with regard to the outstanding gaps and elements in order to respond to changes.

In that regard, we urge States to marshal the necessary political goodwill in order to achieve an agreement on the definition of terrorism. There is also a need to strengthen inter-agency cooperation at both the national and the international levels, to raise awareness of the Strategy beyond the United Nations environment and line ministries at the national level.

Kenya has in the past suffered the devastating effects of three separate incidences of terrorist attacks. We have been a victim of that terrible crime against humanity. We remain in the forefront of efforts to support the international initiatives that seek a global solution to the menace. To that end, we have acceded to all international counter-terrorism conventions. We urge States that have not become parties to the legal counter-terrorism instruments to strive to do so.

We recognize that capacity-building is a core element of the global counter-terrorism effort. In that regard, we have, at the national level, put in place a number of judicial and administrative measures and structures to enhance our capacity to prevent the perpetration of terrorist acts within our territory. Those include the establishment of a national counter-terrorism centre to coordinate and analyse all information related to potential terrorist threats. The centre draws personnel from agencies and departments that are involved in combating terrorism and related crimes. In addition, there is a special anti-terrorism police unit to investigate and apprehend persons associated with terrorist activities. A suppression of terrorism bill is in the process of being republished in order to take on board views resulting from consultations with stakeholders, including civil society. The bill provides for clear investigative, preventive and prosecutorial mechanisms for dealing with individuals and organizations suspected to be involved in terrorist

activities. Draft legislation on money-laundering to provide for the freezing of funds and other financial assets and confiscation of property of persons or organizations associated with terrorist activities is pending conclusion of debate in Parliament. A special unit to prosecute terrorism and money-laundering cases and to deal with forfeiture of assets emanating from terrorist activities has been set up within the Attorney General's office.

On the regional front, a number of regional initiatives to foster cooperation between law enforcement and intelligence machinery are in place. East African security chiefs have met regularly to strategize on how to combat serious cross-border crimes, including armed robbery and terrorism. In fact, one such meeting just concluded in Addis Ababa. Emphasis has been placed on training and enhancing capacities, in addition to sharing information and best practices. Emphasis has also been placed on coordinating efforts to arrest known terrorists and other fugitives from the law.

In addition, widespread public education campaigns have been initiated to create awareness of the dangers of terrorism among the general populace. Despite those efforts, the region would still benefit from more support to step up its capacity to combat terrorism.

We recognize the role of the Assembly and the Security Council in the fight against terrorism. Security Council resolutions on counter-terrorism complement the legal regimes on the fight against terrorism and should be implemented, but they should be adopted through a fair process. We commend States for their cooperation with the Council and urge them to collaborate with the United Nations system.

We commend the Secretary-General for his planned initiative of convening a symposium on supporting victims of terrorism, which will be held on 9 September here at United Nations Headquarters. The symposium will provide an opportunity to share experiences in supporting victims of terrorism. We support the planned initiative and call for more commitment to and solidarity with the victims.

In conclusion, my delegation reaffirms its commitment to the ideals of the Strategy and looks forward to continuing to work with Member States and other stakeholders to realize our collective objectives.

Mr. Punkrasin (Thailand): On behalf of my Government, I would like to commend the President's efforts in promoting the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and in convening this meeting to review the implementation process. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his comprehensive report on the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the Strategy and to extend our sincere gratitude to Ambassador Gert Rosenthal of Guatemala and his team for their valuable contribution to facilitating the draft outcome document for this agenda item.

The landmark adoption of the Strategy in 2006 provided us with a comprehensive framework for a coherent international response to terrorism. While the global fight against terrorism should be undertaken mainly within the multilateral sphere of the United Nations in accordance with relevant international law, such as the United Nations Charter and human rights law, the primary responsibility for implementing the Strategy lies with each Member State. Driven by that conviction, Thailand has committed and will remain committed to adopting and utilizing every means possible, at all levels, in order to achieve the aim of eradicating terrorism.

In that connection, allow me to take this opportunity to briefly share with the Assembly our contribution and the measures we have taken to implement the four pillars of the Strategy. A more detailed account of Thailand's contribution is attached to the written version of my statement, which is being distributed here today.

With regard to measures addressing the conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism, it is our belief that socio-economic development is a vital factor in preventing the spread of radicalization and terrorism. Thailand is a strong supporter of the process that promotes interfaith dialogue and moderate religious leaders to counter the forces of radicalization. Special emphasis is given to exchanges and network-building among religious leaders, scholars and specialists. Our policy targets the media and education, particularly religious schools. The Ministry of Education works with religious leaders to ensure that school curriculums present ideas that are not prone to radicalization.

Under the heading of measures to prevent and combat terrorism, Thailand is proud of its steady

efforts towards becoming party to 9 out of the 13 United Nations anti-terrorism conventions and protocols, 3 of which we ratified or acceded to in 2007. Thailand also ratified the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Convention on Counter-Terrorism in February 2008.

In June 2007, our Prime Minister approved a regulation on the control of man-portable air defence systems, in line with the Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation declaration made in Bangkok in 2003. The regulation imposes stricter controls on the possession of such systems and closer monitoring of their sale, transport and import-export and of the possibility that such weapons could fall into the hands of criminals and terrorist groups.

As a result of globalization, terrorists can now travel and mobilize their resources from one country to another more easily than ever. In an attempt to address those problems and to curb the risk of terrorist acts, Thailand has intensified its border and transport security and established many administrative and legislative instruments. Examples of such measures include the placing of the Personal Identification Secure Comparison and Evaluation System at major airports and border checkpoints. The National Assembly adopted an amended penal code in July 2007 that stipulates as criminal offences the making, forgery, distribution, sale and possession of illegal passports and other travel documents. The penalties for those offences have also been increased.

Moreover, in terms of financial regulations and assets freezing, our Anti-Money Laundering Act was amended in 2007 to broaden the scope of a definition of assets related to criminal offences to include terrorist financing.

Also important, Thailand promulgated the new Extradition Act B.E. 2551 (2008) on 30 January 2008 to expedite the process of extradition by stipulating certain conditions in which the extradition request can be made directly to Thailand's central authority, the Office of the Attorney General, bypassing diplomatic channels.

With regard to measures building the State's capacity to counter terrorism, Thailand attaches importance to international cooperation on capacity-building for the competent agencies that are responsible for counter-terrorism-related work. Thai officials regularly attend and participate in workshops, meetings and conferences at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels. The topics of such workshops include international terrorism, law enforcement, counter-radicalization, internet abuse, weapons smuggling, dual-use goods and explosives, winning the hearts and minds of the people and emergency response mechanisms.

Last but not least, in terms of defending human rights while combating terrorism, Thailand upholds its obligations under related international instruments on human rights, such as the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights; the International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination; and the Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.

Turning to the content of the Strategy itself, Thailand is of the view that the Strategy is a living document that can be modified in parts to better reflect the latest situation and trends in terrorism and counter-terrorism actions. There should be an institutionalized review mechanism for the Strategy to keep it relevant and to keep Member States' information up to date regarding the implementation of the Strategy worldwide. We would support a regularized two-to-three-year review.

Thailand argues for more transparency in the process of data-collection by United Nations bodies. Member States should be informed of what the United Nations intends to do with the information that they provide upon its request. At times, there could be misunderstanding and misinterpretation of the information that the United Nations receives. That could become the basis for incorrect or inaccurate analysis, which could then lead to problems between Member States and the United Nations.

We think that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force should play a greater role in coordinating information among all United Nations agencies to minimize reporting fatigue on the part of Member States. Furthermore, the coordinating feature of the Task Force should perhaps extend to expert groups established under the mandate of various Security Council resolutions on terrorism, such as the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, under resolution 1373 (2001), and the Monitoring Team, under resolution 1267 (1999). If the Task Force

is to be more meaningful, it should have a more focused and clearly spelled-out mandate; if it is to be more effective, more resources should be made available. Thailand therefore argues for more funding for the Task Force, but that should be based on its measurable outputs and contributions.

Mr. Natalegawa (Indonesia): My delegation wishes to thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/62/898), which reviews the activities of the United Nations system in implementing the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Indonesia would also like to extend its sincere appreciation to Ambassador Gert Rosenthal of Guatemala for his strenuous efforts in facilitating the Strategy review consultations. It is our hope that the draft resolution emanating from those consultations will be adopted very soon by consensus.

Before I continue, my delegation would like to align itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Indonesia made a not-insignificant contribution to the adoption and launching of the Strategy two years ago. As a nation that had suffered immensely at the hands of terrorists, we were deeply convinced that a mechanism of this nature was critical to the response of the international community to the scourge of terrorism. That is why we welcome this review debate. The coming together of Member States to agree on the Strategy gives us encouragement that the menace will be overcome. We believe that we need to explore every type of cooperation at various levels to implement the Strategy and its plan of action to the fullest extent.

In the past two years, Indonesia has taken a variety of initiatives at the domestic level in the implementation of the Strategy. For instance, we enacted a counter-terrorism law to provide the legal basis for the investigation, prosecution and punishment of acts of terrorism, including their financing.

In addition, we have upgraded our counter-terrorism measures and the capabilities of local law enforcement bodies, including the ability of the police to intervene in terrorism-related incidents. Over 410 suspects have been arrested since the Bali terrorist bombing in October 2002. More significantly, of that number, 269 have been convicted, while the remaining cases are still before the judiciary.

Furthermore, we have embarked on bilateral, regional and multilateral measures, as required by the Strategy. That is because we believe that no stone should be left unturned to ensure that the course of action we have embarked on is successful. The challenge before us is to implement the comprehensive measures outlined in the four pillars of the Strategy. Indonesia has no intention of doing less.

At the bilateral level, Indonesia has concluded counter-terrorism cooperation agreements with several countries, particularly neighbours such as Australia, Malaysia, Thailand, the Philippines and Singapore.

At the regional level, Indonesia spearheaded cooperation in law enforcement, border control and the enactment of legislative frameworks for counter-terrorism. The Bali Counter-Terrorism Process, for instance, has established strong bonds of collaboration among legal and law enforcement practitioners in the region. The Jakarta Centre for Law Enforcement Cooperation, which was set up by Indonesia and Australia, has provided structured training for law enforcement officers in the region. The contribution of Indonesia is also evident in the regional efforts to bring about the conclusion of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations Convention on Counter-Terrorism. That Convention has provided a framework for regional cooperation to counter, prevent and suppress terrorism, and for deepening cooperation among law enforcement agencies and relevant authorities of the parties. In addition, Indonesia has also sponsored and participated in a number of initiatives aimed at promoting dialogue among civilizations bilaterally, regionally and multilaterally.

At the multilateral level, Indonesia has, inter alia, shown unwavering commitment to promoting the effective implementation, legitimacy and credibility of the sanctions regime under resolution 1267 (1999). We are fully committed to the joint efforts to improve its procedures in order to facilitate its implementation at the national level by Member States. Moreover, Indonesia has been very active in promoting the effort to improve fair and clear procedures to protect the rights of individuals affected by the Al-Qaida sanctions regime. Indonesia highlights the importance of ensuring the protection of the individual's rights to be informed and to be heard and the right to review by a fairer and more effective mechanism.

Those efforts against terrorism, it must be stressed, can only be successfully carried out if the measures agreed upon within the Strategy are consistently implemented in a balanced and comprehensive manner.

My delegation believes that those multifaceted, integrated and coordinated measures should be fully undertaken by all stakeholders. Together, they will address the conditions that are conducive to the spread of terrorism, prevent and combat terrorism, build States' capacities to prevent and combat terrorism and thereby strengthen the role of the United Nations system and ensure respect for human rights for all and the rule of law as the fundamental basis for the fight against terrorism.

It has always been the view of Indonesia that only such an all-embracing approach can help us combat terrorism effectively. Beyond that, we must underline the need to reject the association of terrorism with particular religions, civilizations, cultures or ethnicities. Terrorism is a human challenge that respects no national borders or peoples. Only together can we, all of us, combat it successfully.

While the delegation of Indonesia looks forward to a consistent, transparent, comprehensive and balanced implementation of the Strategy, we also look forward to negotiating a comprehensive and balanced convention that respects the principles of international law and humanitarian law, as well as national sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The Indonesian delegation welcomes the draft resolution on the review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, contained in document A/62/L.48, which strongly condemns acts of terrorism and reaffirms the multifaceted cooperation against that international threat.

Finally, we would also like to commend the initiative of the Secretary-General to organize a symposium on supporting victims of terrorism by inviting victims, civil society and experts together here on 9 September. For Indonesia, that initiative is an important reminder to all of us not only of the heinous nature of terrorism but also of the challenge to care for its victims and not to leave them to face the future alone. We believe that the symposium will offer us many lessons, as experienced by the victims and eyewitnesses of inhuman acts, and help us to appreciate our role in preventing the menace in the future.

Mr. Palihakkara (Sri Lanka): I thank you, sir, for convening this plenary meeting to consider the important agenda item 118, "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", and action on draft resolution A/62/L.48. This is indeed an opportunity for the first review of the Strategy. I would also like to thank the President of the General Assembly and the Secretary-General for their opening remarks. Our thanks go as well to the facilitator, Ambassador Rosenthal of Guatemala, for his untiring efforts towards making agreement on the outcome document possible.

This meeting takes place against the backdrop of the increasing frequency and intensity of acts of terrorism that are threatening peace and security all over the world. Our deliberations and consideration of the draft resolution today are therefore timely.

It has been two years since we adopted the Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which provides an internationally agreed approach to countering terrorism. It also provides a framework for taking individual as well as collective initiatives aimed at addressing the menace while maintaining respect for the well-established norms of the rule of law and human rights. The Strategy acknowledges that the problem of terrorism is seriously undermining the foundations of democracy, the rule of law and public order.

Even if the Strategy may not represent the best interests of all, it is nevertheless a set of guidelines that has been arrived at by consensus, thereby accommodating different strands of views, concerns and interests. In that sense, it enjoys the respect of all States that are committed to implementing it.

The threat to global peace and security posed by terrorism has serious consequences for humankind as never before. It causes economic and political instability in States. It destroys the traditional ethos on which States and societies are founded. It also seeks to destabilize societies, subvert established order and — most importantly — deny people their basic rights and freedoms.

Terrorism has assumed international dimensions, as we all know, through its destructive networks of violence, fund-raising, smuggling of illicit arms,

including possible mass destruction capabilities, and other forms of transnational crimes. It was aptly described by a former Secretary-General as a supranational subversive threat to peace and security within and among States. A succession of Security Council resolutions has reaffirmed the danger.

Democracies have become especially vulnerable to the scourge of terrorism today. The basic guarantees of fundamental rights and freedoms, as well as the political space available to different actors in a democracy, are increasingly exploited by elements that are bent on achieving their political ends by violent and terrorist means. Addressing the General Assembly at its sixty-second session, the President of Sri Lanka stated:

> "Even as we are gathered here, State sovereignty, civil society and the rule of law are increasingly being threatened by terrorism and other illegal and illicit activities in many countries. We need to be vigilant about these activities." *(A/62/PV.5, p. 2)*

The President made those remarks as he urged the United Nations to expedite the process of finalizing a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. It is time that we made extra efforts to conclude that draft convention. Sri Lanka, as the Chair of the Ad Hoc Committee on that subject, would certainly redouble its efforts, with the cooperation of all Member States, to make progress in that important endeavour. Our deliberations here, we hope, will send a strong message of support for that task. We are pleased, therefore, that the draft resolution calls upon Member States to make every effort to conclude the convention.

The President's remarks also arose in the context of some misconceptions to classify acts of terrorism into tolerable and intolerable categories. "Terrorism anywhere is terrorism. There is nothing good in terrorism", (ibid.) the President said. My delegation is glad that this perspective has been recognized in operative paragraph 1 of draft resolution A/62/L.48.

In implementing the Strategy, we need to call for the greater cooperation of all States and, of course, other actors to make it clear to terrorist groups that there will be no space for terrorism to flourish. The United Nations is well placed to lead that concerted global campaign against terrorism as an entity promoting respect for the rule of law and enjoying the legitimacy and confidence of the global community. Such a concerted global campaign, supported by national and regional measures, will go a long way towards evolving comprehensive practical approaches to strengthening global peace and security, as well as institutions of democracy and governance.

While system-wide coherence is an issue which concerns all aspects of the Organization's work, especially the different mechanisms and organs of the United Nations, it needs to be emphasized that coherence is also critical to our efforts to make United Nations action to combat terrorism more effective. We are told that the Strategy is being internalized by different United Nations organs, departments and divisions. It is imperative that this process be further strengthened by relating it to the processes of the Security Council, especially in the context of implementation of Council resolutions such as resolution 1373 (2001).

The ongoing interaction between the Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate and Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force, as well as other programmes and agencies, should be encouraged and intensified with a view to synergizing United Nations action and responses to the challenges of terrorism. They have a vital role in building capacity among vulnerable States to implement the Strategy, both individually and collectively. However, to be effective, the Task Force should encompass a broader base of the General Assembly membership.

In advocating strong measures against terrorism, Sri Lanka shares the view that terrorism cannot, and should not, be associated with any religion, nationality, civilization or ethnic group, and that those attributions cannot be used to justify terrorism or counter-terrorism measures. While terrorism should be confronted directly, from whatever quarter it may emanate, for this scourge to be eradicated all States should refrain from extending political, diplomatic, moral or material support to terrorists.

Sri Lanka supports the draft resolution and hopes that all Member States will work together to implement and add value to the Strategy, consistent with our national and international treaty obligations, in order to combat terrorism at all levels.

Mr. Neritani (Albania): At the outset, I should like to join colleagues in expressing Albania's appreciation to the President of the Assembly for organizing and chairing this important meeting, and to

the facilitator, Ambassador Rosenthal of Guatemala, for all his efforts and the results achieved.

Albania allies itself with the statement delivered by France on behalf of the European Union. I would like to add few brief remarks on implementation at the national level.

Terrorism continues to be one of the most serious threats to international peace and security. Criminal and unjustifiable in all circumstances, it is a threat to all States and peoples. It knows no borders. It is a global threat that requires a global and comprehensive response. The United Nations continues to have a unique role to play in the global fight against terrorism. We appreciate its efforts to support implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, both through its individual departments, specialized agencies, funds and programmes and through the Counter-Terrorism Task Force, which may need further support.

Albania has positioned itself in the forefront of countries fighting terrorism. Albania has ratified most of the United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and protocols and therefore has taken all necessary steps to adopt the domestic legislation. At the same time, we are doing our best to implement all relevant resolutions related to international terrorism. Preventive measures are being taken in the fields of legislation, border control and finance.

Concerning the first pillar, I wish to emphasize the very important efforts undertaken in several areas. These include intercultural and interreligious dialogue, in a country with special historical values of coexistence and extremely good relations between three different religions; utmost efforts to lower the social impact of important and necessary reforms; increasing human rights standards; and playing a very constructive and mature role in addressing regional challenges with a modern and forward-looking approach.

On the legislative front, to strengthen the fight against terrorism-related activities, some recent amendments to the criminal code are intended to tackle, where applicable, fund-raising, the recruitment and training of persons engaged in terrorism-related activities or the financing of terrorism, the incitement of propaganda for terrorism-related purposes, and training in the illegal use or production of weapons and dangerous substances.

Another important law, adopted in 2008, is the Law on the Prevention of Money Laundering and Financing of Terrorism. In cooperation with international experts, the State police has prepared and introduced a draft document, the National Strategy against Terrorism. The necessary adequate institutional structuring and framework have been established to cope with the challenging reality and generally acceptable higher standards.

Albania continues to cooperate extensively with its regional and global counterparts. That has had a tremendous positive impact on our joint obligations and efforts. Cooperation and coordination with other specialized agencies and/or bodies in the regional and global spectrums will continue in the future. The regular exchange of best practices and especially the assistance offered to our relevant agencies are highly appreciated and valued important components in our joint engagement.

In conclusion, let me reiterate our firm commitment to cooperating with the regional and international factors in the fight against terrorism and, hence, in the successful implementation of the United Nations Strategy.

Mr. Mahiga (United Republic of Tanzania): Even at this late date, at the outset I would like to express our deep sorrow and extend our profound condolences to the people and Government of Zambia on the passing away of His Excellency Levy Patrick Mwanawasa last month. We also extend our sympathies to the bereaved family. President Mwanawasa will be remembered for his commitment and promotion of democratic governance in Zambia and Africa and as an ardent supporter of African integration, the United Nations and multilateralism.

On behalf of my delegation and on my own behalf, let me express our heartfelt appreciation to the President of the Assembly for hosting and steering this meeting. The United Republic of Tanzania is confident that, under his leadership, this meeting will result in a consensus outcome and a very forward-looking document that will advance the cause of combating international terrorism.

Tanzania reaffirms its commitment and readiness to implement the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars. We commend the work of the Counter-Terrorism Task Force of the Secretariat for advancing the thinking on the challenges

of terrorism and implementation of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy by Member States. The Task Force needs to be strengthened and institutionalized.

This contemporary threat to international peace and security, targeting innocent civilians, demands conventional as well as unconventional responses, which we must develop under the leadership of the United Nations. Indeed, terrorism threatens the values of our civilizations, which underlie our common humanity. Thus the need for collective and coordinated global efforts against terrorism under the leadership of the United Nations cannot be overemphasized.

Tanzania has made modest but significant strides in preventing and countering terrorism. We have instituted legislation in the national statute that criminalizes and punishes terrorism and related crimes. Corresponding administrative measures have also been put in place to complement those legal measures and to implement the counter-terrorism act. We have also established community policing structures to promote awareness and heighten vigilance among our population. The details of the measures undertaken by the Government of Tanzania will feature in the national implementation report, to be submitted to the Secretariat soon.

Despite all the measures undertaken to date at the national level, the global nature of the threat and its evolving unpredictable manifestation in our region and beyond have overstretched the national resources for deployment against it. A national strategy can be successful only if it is linked to regional strategies and to a larger global strategy.

In the same vein, the legislation that Tanzania has produced needs to be complemented by similar instruments developed by other Member States, especially those in our neighbourhood. Such measures could ensure that terrorists do not find safe havens in countries that have not yet criminalized terrorism. We are mindful of the need to respect and safeguard human rights in implementing our national counter-terrorism strategy as well as our regional strategies. It is imperative that human rights be respected by all countries in the pursuit of security and in addressing the challenges emanating from terrorism.

Another area that requires United Nations and global cooperation against terrorism is the re-establishment of States under stress that have weak institutions and weak governmental authority. In such States, a security vacuum exists in which terrorists can hide and plan terrorist actions. Given the restrictions of international law and logistical and other constraints, it is not possible to apprehend terrorists through standard police work. It is therefore essential to help States in such situations to establish political authority and State structures with which adjacent States and the international community can cooperate to combat terrorism and related crimes. In such endeavours, information exchange is vital to combat terrorism and develop collective strategies.

In the light of those issues, the United Republic of Tanzania wishes to propose that, with regard to States experiencing political stress and recurring conflicts, counter-terrorism efforts to assist those States should always be carried out within the framework of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, but with their consent. We further propose that actions in that regard include assistance to neighbouring States in dealing appropriately with mixed flows of civilians across international borders, giving protection to those who deserve it while screening out those elements that pose security risks owing to suspected criminal and terrorist activity.

Finally, I should point out that, in post-conflict situations, the issue of security sector reform, including the disarmament, demobilization and reintegration of ex-combatants, should be adequately financed at the national and subregional levels to prevent ex-combatants from being subjected to recruitment by terrorist networks. The role of the Peacebuilding Commission in advising States on post-conflict strategies and in mobilizing resources for rebuilding war-torn societies and building new institutions is critical to pre-empt terrorist recruitment, especially among unemployed young people in the volatile environment of the post-conflict situation, where there are multitudes, armies of unemployed young people who are vulnerable to terrorist propaganda and recruitment.

Mr. Danesh-Yazdi (Islamic Republic of Iran): The delegation of the Islamic Republic of Iran would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting. My delegation appreciates the efforts of Ambassador Rosenthal of Guatemala in facilitating the negotiations on the draft resolution on the first review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

My delegation aligns itself with the statement made by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the

Organization of the Islamic Conference group and fully supports the principled positions that that group has consistently taken on the issue of terrorism.

The adoption by consensus of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy on 8 September 2006 indicated the resolve of the international community to tackle terrorism in an inclusive and integrated manner. The Islamic Republic of Iran joined the consensus as a demonstration of its firm commitment to the collective fight against terrorism, despite its reservations concerning a number of issues. We believed, for example, that the Strategy fell short of sufficiently addressing the root causes of terrorism as well as situations that might be abused in order to nurture terrorist violence. It has been crystal-clear that the unlawful use of force, aggression and foreign occupation provide the most fertile ground for fostering and fuelling mass violence and acts of terrorism. The Strategy also failed to tackle the problem of State terrorism. Nonetheless, as a living document, it could be improved, and its deficiencies should be rectified by examining and updating it.

The Strategy is based on the categorical condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, committed by whomsoever, wherever and for whatever purposes. The Strategy's call for the elimination of conditions conducive to the spread of terrorism is a realistic approach to addressing that multifaceted phenomenon. It is imperative to note that terrorism cannot be eliminated if the environment that breeds terrorism — including foreign occupation, injustice and exclusion — is allowed to thrive. The task now before us is to implement all four pillars of the Strategy in a consistent and balanced manner.

A consensual legal definition of terrorism would contribute greatly to the successful implementation of the Strategy. In that regard, we reiterate the importance of General Assembly resolution 46/51, which reaffirms

> "the inalienable right to self-determination and independence of all peoples living under colonial and racist regimes and other forms of alien domination and foreign occupation, and upholding the legitimacy of their struggle, in particular the struggle of national liberation movements, in accordance with the purposes and principles of the Charter and the Declaration on Principles of International Law".

Undoubtedly, the responsibility for the implementation of the Strategy lies with the Member States. The Task Force is entrusted with coordinating the efforts of United Nations bodies and agencies, which are mandated to have a counter-terrorism component with a view to developing Member States' capacity and promoting the overall effectiveness of United Nations counter-terrorism efforts. We stress that the Task Force, in carrying out all its activities, should be bound by the mandate given to it by the General Assembly. In that regard, the Task Force should address the concerns expressed by many countries on various occasions regarding the criteria used for the establishment of working groups as well as the use of politically loaded notions, which were intentionally avoided in the Strategy.

The Islamic Republic of Iran unequivocally and categorically condemns terrorism in all its forms and manifestations. As a vivid victim of terrorism, we firmly believe that the killing of innocent civilians, whatever the motivation behind it, is a criminal and abhorrent act. We also believe that State terrorism is the gravest, most dangerous and most destructive form of terrorism.

We are concerned by the increase in terrorist acts in our surrounding regions, mainly brought about or triggered by the ongoing conflicts imposed by non-regional powers. That situation has provided a feeding ground for terrorist groups and elements to survive and escalate their terrorist activities. Iran has consistently warned against the continued presence and activities of certain terrorist groups in some of its neighbouring countries under the protection of foreign forces.

The Islamic Republic of Iran has spared no effort in fighting terrorism. We stand ready to cooperate with other countries, especially our neighbours, and with the relevant United Nations bodies. Iran has been keen to improve its overall capacity to combat terrorism and crime. In that context, a comprehensive bill against terrorism has been drafted. The bill is under consideration by the relevant bodies for submission to Parliament. Moreover, the Anti-Money-Laundering Act, which has been in force since early 2008, provides a necessary and sufficient legal tool to prevent and fight the laundering of the proceeds of any crime. We have also benefited from the technical assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) in fighting terrorism and crime. In 2007, a workshop

on preventing and combating terrorism was co-organized by the UNODC and the Iranian judiciary.

A number of initiatives have been taken at the bilateral and regional levels, particularly among the members of the Economic Cooperation Organization, to promote cooperation against terrorism and transnational organized crime, especially drug trafficking, given the fact that drug trafficking has been used as a main financial source by some terrorist groups in the region.

More than 80 per cent of Afghanistan's opium is trafficked across Iran's border, much of it in transit to Europe. For decades, Iran has been at the forefront of a full-scale war against transnational drug mafiosi. More than 4,000 Iranian law enforcement personnel have lost their lives and billions of dollars have been spent to suppress drug traffickers, and to interdict opium shipments. According to UNODC's 2008 World Drug Report, more than 80 per cent of world opium seizures in 2006 were in Iran. We urge the international community to pay more serious attention to that issue. We have shouldered a great burden, largely without receiving the minimum assistance from the international community, but we should make it clear that no country can tackle the scourge single-handedly.

In our efforts to uproot terrorism, due attention should also be paid to all ways and means that may be used by terrorist groups and elements to pursue their dangerous activities. In that context, we share the concern that terrorist groups may increasingly use the Internet for pursuing their criminal activities, including for identifying potential targets, given the easy access to images and exact maps of infrastructure facilities, as well as State facilities and other places of public use.

Terrorism is a despicable crime that should be rejected in its entirety. Selectivity and double standards in dealing with terrorist groups are real impediments to the elimination of terrorism. Likewise, linking terrorism with any religion, nationality or culture must be rejected and stopped. Such an unwise approach towards terrorism will only lead to distrust, hatred and division among nations. It is imperative to redouble our collective efforts to promote dialogue and tolerance among civilizations and cultures and to contest suspicion towards and defamation of religions.

In conclusion, we should not give in to terrorists by sacrificing our high principles, including the rule of law, through resort to arbitrary persecution and unlawful and/or excessive countermeasures. The rule of law, at both the national and international levels, and respect for basic human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as international humanitarian law, must be our guiding principles in fighting terrorism. The fact that the Strategy has appropriately made human rights the fundamental basis of the fight against terrorism indicates the high importance of complying with international law, in particular human rights law, while countering terrorism.

However, the systematic abuse of counter-terrorism measures in recent years — such as the practice of detaining terrorist suspects in secret detention, which deprives them of their basic right to appear before a competent court and violates their right to a fair trial and due process of law; the widespread use of torture and other cruel, inhuman and degrading treatment or punishment in the name of fighting terrorism; and improper transfers of terrorist suspects, including so-called renditions — has caused serious concern in the international community. Those are but a few manifestations of an alarming trend that has overshadowed the international campaign against terrorism.

Mr. Ayoob (Afghanistan): At the outset, I would like to thank the presidency for convening the first review meeting of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. My delegation congratulates Ambassador Gert Rosenthal, Permanent Representative of Guatemala to the United Nations, on his excellent work to reach consensus for the adoption of the draft resolution entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" (A/62/L.48).

At this juncture, I would like to associate myself with the statement delivered by the representative of Pakistan yesterday on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference.

Afghanistan, as a main victim and front-line fighter against terrorism, strongly condemns all acts, methods and practices of terrorism as a clear violation against the fundamental rights of humankind and as an attack against freedom, democracy, progress and civilization. We deeply believe that terrorism can never be justified, irrespective of its motivations, objectives, forms and manifestations.

Afghanistan supports the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which united all 192 Member States behind their common goal to undertake

a set of concrete measures to address terrorism in all its aspects. In that regard, my delegation would like to reiterate its support for the work of the Ad Hoc Committee established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 51/210 of 17 December 1996 to finalize the text of and conclude a comprehensive convention on international terrorism.

Seven years ago, when the Taliban and Al-Qaida terrorist networks and foreign military forces occupied and ruled my country and Afghanistan became a safe haven for international terrorism, our country posed a serious threat to global and regional peace, stability and security. Through unprecedented united international action against terrorism and the firm determination of the Afghan people, terrorism was defeated in Afghanistan and a new chapter was opened in the history of my country.

Although, with the continued assistance of our friends in the international community, we have made tremendous progress in the past seven years, it is undeniable that the world, our region and Afghanistan in particular continue to suffer from the results of terrorist attacks. Unfortunately, terrorists continue to commit their crimes, and the war against international terrorism continues. The new reality is not only that Afghanistan is no longer a safe haven for international terrorism but also that it is an active front-line fighter and a committed member of the international community in the war against terrorism. Terrorist networks are increasingly recruiting and training terrorists and exporting them to Afghanistan. They are responsible for the deaths of thousands of innocent civilians and for the burning and destruction of schools, health clinics and hospitals. They are trying to deprive our population of its fundamental rights.

Bearing in mind that the Counter-Terrorism Strategy must be implemented in all its aspects, in the case of Afghanistan my delegation believes that the Strategy's capacity-building pillar is an essential element in the global endeavour to help needy countries in their efforts to implement all of the Strategy's pillars and to combat terrorism.

Afghanistan has established an inter-ministerial working group under the chairmanship of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to coordinate the implementation of the Strategy and other international conventions and protocols, including General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism. In order to strengthen the capacity of that institution to implement the Counter-Terrorism Strategy in an integrated manner, the inter-ministerial working group needs legal and technical assistance from the United Nations and other relevant international organizations.

I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Counter-Terrorism Branch of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other United Nations agencies for providing technical, legal and logistical assistance to the relevant ministries and counter-terrorism bodies in Afghanistan. We request that UNODC, UNDP and other international organizations assist the inter-ministerial working group to build the necessary capacity and to contribute to the implementation of the Strategy.

Afghanistan has joined all existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism and has strongly committed itself to the implementation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism. In that regard, we have instituted several counter-terrorism and anti-narcotics legislative, administrative and security measures. These include the establishment of Afghanistan's financial transaction and report analysis centre as a new anti-money-laundering unit within the Central Bank of Afghanistan; the adoption of laws to combat the financing of terrorism and to combat terrorist crime; the ratification of the United Nations Convention against Corruption; the establishment of the National Peace Consolidation Commission of Afghanistan; and the establishment of the council of scholars and religious leaders to affirm that terrorism is anti-peace and anti-Islamic.

Afghanistan is currently working closely with the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Council resolution 1267 (1999) and other bodies established pursuant to Security Council resolutions to strengthen the effectiveness of the United Nations sanctions regime against Al-Qaida and the Taliban. Afghanistan recently provided its report to the secretariat of the Security Council Committee established pursuant to Council resolution 1540 (2004). For the past two years, Afghanistan has provided the 1267 Committee and the Counter-Terrorism Committee with updated information and proposals on new listings and de-listings and on the freezing of bank accounts of members of the Taliban and Al-Qaida. Cognizant of the fact that money derived from narcotics is a source of

financing for terrorists, Afghanistan is considering providing the 1267 Committee with a list of drug smugglers.

We would like to request that Member States that have not yet done so become parties to the existing international conventions and protocols against terrorism and to fulfil their obligations with regard to the implementation of General Assembly and Security Council resolutions relating to international terrorism, in particular vis-à-vis the 1267 Committee, on sanctions against the Taliban and Al-Qaida.

In conclusion, terrorism is a serious global threat to international peace and security. Serious and sincere global actions are required to combat that menace. As His Excellency Mr. Hâmid Karzai, President of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, said in his speech to the summit meeting of the Shanghai Cooperation Organization, held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, on 28 August 2008:

> "We call for the strengthening of international unity to realize the comprehensive strategy of the war against terrorism. That strategy will not be successful unless the international community acts seriously to destroy the political and military sources of terrorism and the entities that produce and nurture terrorists."

Mr. Soler Torrijos (Panama) (*spoke in Spanish*): First of all, I would like to thank the President of the General Assembly for convening this meeting. I would also like to thank the Secretary-General for his report (A/62/898) on the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, as well as to acknowledge the efforts of Ambassador Rosenthal of Guatemala in facilitating the preparation of the draft resolution we will adopt today. In addition to informing the Assembly about the measures adopted by my country to implement the Strategy, I should like to take this opportunity to make some general comments about the implementation of the Strategy.

We believe that the adoption of the Strategy, in 2006, was a milestone in the international community's efforts to eradicate terrorism. The Strategy's success, in contrast to other efforts in that field, is due to the comprehensive manner adopted in addressing one of the greatest contemporary threats to international peace and security. The Strategy is an exceedingly ambitious undertaking that requires tremendous effort by Member States and the agencies, funds and programmes of the United Nations and civil society alike. However, given the absence of predictable funding from the Organization's regular budget, it is clear that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force's implementation of the Strategy is limited.

We note that the Task Force, which is ably led by Mr. Robert Orr, has been able to support Member States in developing legal instruments to prevent and combat terrorism. We also note that information regarding the resources available to combat terrorism has been systematized. Member States that have requested it have also had their capacity to combat terrorism evaluated. Among the successes of the Task Force is the establishment of nine working groups focused on various areas in which the United Nations could provide added value. Despite the criticism that has been levelled against their functioning, we believe that this initiative aims at implementing the Strategy in a balanced way within the limited resources available.

The President took the Chair.

The outcome of the work of the groups will allow us to identify best practices and existing gaps in the implementation of some of the provisions of resolution 60/288 and to determine the most effective mechanisms to disseminate the best practices and to bridge the gaps.

We also welcome the work of the Task Force, particularly in its dedication to ensuring the rule of law in the implementation of the Strategy and to the promotion and protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms. We stress that respect for human rights is an essential principle of the United Nations Charter and should therefore be practised by all its constituent bodies in all their actions.

The provision of the draft resolution before the Assembly that requests the institutionalization of the Task Force and governs its interactions with Member States is an important step towards the more effective implementation of the Strategy and meeting the needs of Member States. Nevertheless, we recognize that we must be realistic and that it is impossible for the Task Force to fully implement the mandate entrusted to it in the Strategy if it is not provided with sufficient resourcing through the regular budget. The next time we examine that issue, Members must consider concrete measures to resolve the situation. Otherwise, we will have to accept that only those provisions that are in the interest of donors can be implemented.

In conclusion, we want to express our hope that, during the sixty-third session to begin later this month, the Ad Hoc Committee will make progress in its negotiations with a view to adopting a comprehensive convention on international terrorism. That would be the next milestone towards which the United Nations could make headway.

Mrs. Gallardo Hernández (El Salvador) (*spoke in Spanish*): I welcome this opportunity to express my delegation's satisfaction for the initiative of convening of today's debate to consider the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, demonstrating the importance the General Assembly attaches to the follow-up, implementation and updating of the Strategy.

We express our deep gratitude to Ambassador Gert Rosenthal for his efficient coordination of the negotiations on draft resolution A/62/L.48 to be adopted shortly. This meeting also reflects the need for the international community to join in a multilateral response to the threat against the collective and individual peace and security through this universal body with its greatest political legitimacy to meet that challenge head-on in the twenty-first century.

My country reaffirms its outright condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations, regardless of who perpetrates it and for what purpose. Similarly, El Salvador reaffirms the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and its four pillars, which represent an ongoing basis for a more effective approach to all issues related to international terrorism.

In that context, we thank the Secretary-General for his report contained in document A/62/898, which highlights the efforts that the United Nations as a whole is making to implement the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, with particular reference to the practical recommendations and strategies contained therein, which constitute a solid basis for elaborating a plan of action for the next few years. El Salvador feels it is important to bolster the role of the United Nations in the implementation of the Strategy, especially with regard to cooperation with regional and subregional organizations and assistance to countries in capacity-building.

It is appropriate that, two years after the launch of the Global Strategy, the work of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force has come to represent a concrete step towards fulfilling the objectives of the Strategy, as called for in paragraph 3 (b) of resolution 60/288. El Salvador also recognizes the importance of promoting and protecting human rights and the fundamental freedoms of all while combating all forms and manifestations of terrorism in the context of a strengthened rule of law.

Against that backdrop, my country supports the draft resolution contained in document A/62/L.48 and entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy" because it reflects the political consensus that the Member States have reached in terms of the follow-up, implementation and updating of the Strategy. All of that is enshrined in the general objective to create a global counter-terrorism mechanism.

At the national level, the El Salvador Government has decided to breathe new life into its inter-institutional group against terrorism in order to give stronger direction to the prevention and implementation of measures in line with the pillars of the Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy. Similarly, our country is currently implementing a master plan for civic security that includes areas for intervention in police matters, criminal prosecution, legislation, civil society participation, the prison system, deterrence, the justice system, prevention, rehabilitation and international cooperation.

Our national civil police has designed and is implementing Plan SARISSA, the objective of which is to develop a strategy to reduce crime rates, improve the perception of safety and provide effective and accessible police services. As for security and national defence, the armed forces of El Salvador have anti-terrorism contingency plans that enable it to respond to any threat of that nature. In so doing, it can provide for the security of its citizens. Those plans have been made in accordance with the National Defence Law.

As for domestic capacity-building, allow me to note that, in March and April, with the assistance of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the Organization of American States Inter-American Committee Against Terrorism, a workshop was convened to consider terrorism prevention, counter-terrorism, the financing of terrorism, the legal framework and instruments for international cooperation. At the subregional level, the presidents of Central America and Mexico, in December 2007 in Guatemala City, adopted a security strategy for Central America and Mexico, which includes the fight against

organized crime, drug trafficking, gangs, illegal arms trafficking, terrorism and corruption.

In conclusion, I would like to reaffirm the political will of the Government of El Salvador to continue to implement and provide effective follow-up to the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, which is an essential component of the strengthening of national, regional and international actions to prevent and combat terrorism in all its forms and manifestations.

Mr. Saleh (Lebanon): At the outset, my delegation would like to express its appreciation to you, Mr. President, for holding the first biennial review of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy.

My delegation would like to associate itself with the statements made by the representative of Kuwait on behalf of the Group of Arab States and by the representative of Pakistan on behalf of the Organization of the Islamic Conference. We would also like to express our appreciation to Ambassador Gert Rosenthal of Guatemala for the efforts he made during the Strategy review consultations, which helped Member States to reach consensus on the draft resolution before us.

My delegation would like to reaffirm its strong condemnation of terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and its support for all efforts to eradicate that scourge. Lebanon remains deeply committed to the international efforts to counter terrorism and believes that the fight against that scourge requires concerted efforts among all Member States. In that regard, cooperation at the regional and international levels is a key element for the success of that fight.

Lebanon has ratified 11 out of the 13 United Nations counter-terrorism conventions and is in the process of ratifying the remaining ones.

My delegation would like to reaffirm its support for the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy and to call for its implementation in a holistic and integrated manner, with equal emphasis on its four pillars. We would like to stress the need to maintain the Strategy as a living document open to examination and updating on a regular basis and to emphasize the centrality of the role of the General Assembly in combating terrorism, since it is the only United Nations organ that enjoys universal membership.

We believe that the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy should address the root causes of terrorism, including the unlawful use of force; that it should contain a definition of terrorism; that it should condemn State terrorism in the strongest terms; and that it should strongly differentiate between terrorism and the legitimate right of peoples to resist foreign occupation. In fact, General Assembly resolution 46/51 stresses the need for such differentiation.

Furthermore, that distinction is duly recognized in international law, international humanitarian law and Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations. It is a very important distinction, because one of the basic aspects of terrorism is that it is an indiscriminate act of violence. In our response, however, we should not be indiscriminate.

My delegation would like to emphasize that terrorism should not be associated with any religion, race, ethnic group, nationality or civilization. Here, we would like to express our support for the proposal of the Custodian of the Two Holy Mosques, King Abdullah Bin Abdulaziz Al Saud, that an international centre to combat international terrorism be established under the aegis of the United Nations.

My delegation believes that the implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy lies first and foremost in the hands of Member States and that the relevant United Nations entities should play a supportive but not substitutive role. In that respect, it should be noted that the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force was established under the capacity-building section of the Strategy and was intended to ensure overall coordination and coherence of the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system and to provide assistance to Member States. My delegation would like to stress the importance of the ownership and leadership of Member States with regard to the implementation of the Strategy. Accordingly, we support the institutionalization of the Task Force within the Secretariat, pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/288.

We believe that the responses of Member States to terrorism should always be governed by the logic of rights. Therefore, it is of the utmost importance that all of us always comply with our obligations under international law, including the Charter of the United Nations, human rights law, refugee law and international humanitarian law, in the formulation and implementation of our counter-terrorism measures.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in the debate on this item.

Before we proceed to the consideration of draft resolution A/62/L.48, I would like to inform the Assembly that operative paragraph 14 has been slightly revised and now reads as follows:

> "Decides to include in the provisional agenda of its sixty-fourth session an item entitled 'The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy' in order to undertake in two years an examination of the report of the Secretary-General requested in paragraph 13 above, as well as the implementation of the Strategy on the part of Member States and to consider updating it to respond to changes".

We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/62/L.48, as orally revised. In that connection, I now give the floor to the representative of the Secretariat.

Mr. Botnaru (Department for General Assembly and Conference Management): In connection with draft resolution A/62/L.48, entitled "The United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy", I wish to place on record the following statement of financial implications on behalf of the Secretary-General, in accordance with rule 153 of the rules of procedure of the General Assembly.

By operative paragraphs 11 and 12 of the draft resolution, the General Assembly would

> "[Urge] the Secretary-General to make the necessary arrangements to carry out the institutionalization of the Task Force, in accordance with resolution 60/288, in order to ensure overall coordination and coherence in the counter-terrorism efforts of the United Nations system",

and

> "[Decide] to interact with the Task Force on a regular basis, in order to receive briefings and reports on its current and future work, assess the work being undertaken on the Strategy implementation efforts, including the work of the Task Force, and offer policy guidance".

With regard to the institutionalization of the Task Force, it is the intention of the Secretary-General to continue to address the staffing requirements of the Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force secretariat from within existing resources. Concerning the interaction with the Task Force, in keeping with the pattern of previous years, the Secretariat would provide regular briefings and reports on the activities of the Task Force as necessary, when requested.

Accordingly, should the General Assembly adopt draft resolution A/62/L.48, there would be no financial implications under the programme budget for the biennium 2008-2009.

The President: The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/62/L.48, as orally revised.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to adopt draft resolution A/62/L.48 as orally revised?

Draft resolution A/62/L.48, as orally revised, was adopted (resolution 62/272).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 118?

It was so decided.

The meeting rose at 5 p.m.

United Nations A/62/PV.121

General Assembly
Sixty-second session

Official Records

121st plenary meeting
Thursday, 11 September 2008, 10 a.m.
New York

President: Mr. Kerim (The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia)

The meeting was called to order at 10.40 a.m.

Agenda item 34 (*continued*)

Comprehensive review of the whole question of peacekeeping operations in all their aspects

Report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) (A/62/406/Add.1)

The President: If there is no proposal under rule 66 of the rules of procedure, I shall take it that the General Assembly decides not to discuss the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) that is before the Assembly today.

It was so decided.

The President: Statements will therefore be limited to explanations of vote. The positions of delegations regarding the recommendation of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) have been made clear in the Committee and are reflected in the relevant official records. May I remind members that, under paragraph 7 of decision 34/401, the General Assembly agreed that

> "When the same draft resolution is considered in a Main Committee and in plenary meeting, a delegation should, as far as possible, explain its vote only once, i.e., either in the Committee or in plenary meeting, unless that delegation's vote in plenary meeting is different from its vote in the Committee."

May I also remind delegations that, also in accordance with General Assembly decision 34/401, explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Before we begin to take action on the recommendation contained in the report of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), I should like to advise representatives that we are going to proceed to take a decision in the same manner as was done in the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee), unless notified otherwise in advance.

The General Assembly has before it a draft resolution recommended by the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) in paragraph 7 of its report. The Assembly will now take a decision on the draft resolution. The Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee) adopted the draft resolution without a vote. May I take it that the Assembly wishes to do the same?

The draft resolution was adopted (resolution 62/273).

The President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 34?

It was so decided.

The President: The Assembly has thus concluded consideration of all the reports of the Special Political and Decolonization Committee (Fourth Committee).

This record contains the text of speeches delivered in English and of the interpretation of speeches delivered in the other languages. Corrections should be submitted to the original languages only. They should be incorporated in a copy of the record and sent under the signature of a member of the delegation concerned to the Chief of the Verbatim Reporting Service, room C-154A. Corrections will be issued after the end of the session in a consolidated corrigendum.

08-50341 (E)

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: I now invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/62/L.41/Rev.1, circulated under agenda item 56, "Globalization and interdependence".

Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded consideration of agenda item 56 at its 78th plenary meeting, on 19 December 2007. In order to enable the Assembly to consider draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of agenda item 56.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of agenda item 56?

It was so decided.

The President: Members will recall that at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly decided to allocate agenda item 56 to the Second Committee. In order for the General Assembly to proceed expeditiously with the consideration of the draft resolution issued as document A/62/L.41/Rev.1, under that item, may I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to consider agenda item 56 directly in plenary meeting under heading B, "Promotion of sustained economic growth and sustainable development in accordance with the relevant resolutions of the General Assembly and recent United Nations conferences"?

It was so decided.

The President: May I further take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of agenda item 56?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 56 (*continued*)

Globalization and interdependence

Draft resolution (A/62/L.41/Rev.1)

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Azerbaijan to introduce draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1.

Mr. Mehdiyev (Azerbaijan): I have the honour to introduce, on behalf of the sponsors, including Sweden, which has joined that group very recently, draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1. The text before us is the result of an extensive process of informal consultations reflecting our willingness to attain broad support for the draft resolution.

The draft resolution primarily focuses on the issues of transparency and accountability in industries, recognizing the important role of the international community, Government and the private sector in that regard. It also takes note of relevant voluntary initiatives implemented in this field, in particular the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI), which seeks to further strengthen transparency and accountability in the extractive sector.

Launched in 2003, the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative is a voluntary initiative open to all countries looking for better standards of transparency and accountability in the extractive sector to the benefit of their peoples. Bringing together Government, the private sector and civil society, the EITI enables more transparent and accountable governance in the extractive sector, while aligning the interests of all stakeholders.

We believe that the adoption of this draft resolution will be another important step for countries to further promote transparency and accountability. We also believe that this kind of recognition should facilitate the exchange of lessons learned and the sharing of knowledge and best practices through South-South and North-South cooperation, which will be important in developing the transparency agenda.

We believe that the United Nations system, through its global reach, country presence and areas of work, will be an important partner for increasing knowledge about transparency and for assisting those countries that want to develop capacities in developing initiatives such as the EITI. Therefore, we invite all member States to adopt the draft resolution by consensus.

In conclusion, I wish to thank all the sponsors of the draft resolution for their contribution and support, and also to thank those delegations that participated in the harmonization of the text.

The President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1. I call first on the representative of the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela on a point of order.

Mrs. Giménez-Jiménez (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): My delegation wishes to point out some differences between the Spanish version and the English version of draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1.

The title in Spanish should conform to the English text, "Strengthening transparency in industries", with the word "industries" in the plural. The sixth preambular paragraph too should conform to the English text, which reads "Taking note of all relevant voluntary initiatives, including the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, aimed at improving transparency in the extractive industries".

We also request that footnote 3, which refers to the website of the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, be deleted. It is our understanding that footnotes are used to refer to official documents of the United Nations, and the decision to include this footnote was not a consensus-based decision among Member States.

Finally, we request that the Spanish text of paragraph 4 be corrected to conform to the English text, which reads as follows:

> "Notes the efforts of countries that are participating in all relevant voluntary initiatives to improve transparency and accountability in industries, including in the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative in the extractive sector, and to share their experience with interested Member States."

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of China on a point of order.

Mr. Liu Yuyin (China): I, too, wish to point out some problems with the Chinese version of draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1.

First, with regard to the title of the draft resolution, the Chinese version, when translated back into English literally, is "Strengthening transparency in industries and business". There is a similar problem in operative paragraph 4. I understand that in Chinese there is no word corresponding to the word "industries", but I trust that the translators have the wisdom to find a perfect Chinese word for "industries". Also in operative paragraph 4, in the Chinese version, when translated back into English literally, it would seem that the comma has been omitted after the word "initiatives".

So, I would ask the Secretariat to pay heed to the problems with the Chinese version and make the corresponding corrections.

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of the Russian Federation on a point of order.

Mr. Kononuchenko (Russian Federation) (*spoke in Russian*): We, too, would like to draw attention to the fact that there are some inaccuracies in the Russian version of draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1, notably in the title. If translated into English, it would read: "Strengthening transparency in the extractive industry". During the negotiations on the draft resolution we tried to achieve consensus, and the consensus was reached with the understanding that the title of the draft resolution in Russian would not include the word "extractive".

I would like my comments to be carefully applied to the entire Russian text of the draft resolution in order to eliminate such glaring inaccuracies.

The President: The Assembly will now take a decision on draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1, entitled "Strengthening transparency in industries". The following additional countries have become sponsors of the draft resolution: Armenia, Israel, Kazakhstan and Sweden.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1, taking into account the comments made regarding the Chinese, Russian and Spanish versions?

Draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1 was adopted (resolution 62/274).

The President: Before giving the floor to speakers in explanation of vote after the vote, may I remind delegations that explanations of vote are limited to 10 minutes and should be made by delegations from their seats.

Mr. Hagen (United States of America): We are particularly pleased that resolution 62/274 takes note of the role of voluntary initiatives, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, in strengthening transparency and accountability in industries. Azerbaijan is one of the pioneers in implementing the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, and we are grateful for its sponsorship of this resolution. We encourage other emerging

economies and their companies to support the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative.

With respect to the reference in the fifth preambular paragraph to full permanent sovereignty over wealth, natural resources and economic activities, and the reference in the fourth preambular paragraph to Assembly resolution 1803 (XVII) of 14 December 1962, the United States wishes to emphasize that State sovereignty is qualified by rules of international law, including those concerning expropriation of property. For example, no State may expropriate or nationalize foreign investments, either directly or indirectly, except when four conditions are met. In particular, an expropriation must be for a public purpose; it must be non-discriminatory; it must be accompanied by prompt, adequate and effective compensation; and it must be carried out in accordance with due process of law.

Mrs. Giménez-Jiménez (Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela) (*spoke in Spanish*): The Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela has joined consensus on draft resolution A/62/L.41/Rev.1, taking into account the changes mentioned earlier, and wishes to make the following comments.

We should like to underscore our concern at the trend for the Assembly to attempt to give an intergovernmental stimulus to non-intergovernmental initiatives. Here, we wish to stress that the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela considers that the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative, as indicated in operative paragraph 4, is voluntary and that it falls within the context of the Charter of Economic Rights and Duties of States, adopted by the Assembly as resolution 3281 (XXIX). That document states that every State has full permanent sovereignty, including possession, use and disposal, over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities.

Similarly, transparency and/or accountability in industries is interpreted as being aimed at enhancing social well-being, inclusion, participation and accountability to the people, in full conformity with the national legislation of States. However, in no way can this transparency and/or accountability mean the establishment of supranational monitoring mechanisms that undermine a State's full permanent sovereignty, including possession, use and disposal, over all its wealth, natural resources and economic activities.

With respect to paragraph 3, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela interprets the role of the international community as solely to strengthen the sovereignty of the State over its industries and over the use and disposal of its natural resources. The purpose is to increase the State's efforts to attain its development goals, to include internationally agreed goals and the Millennium Development Goals.

As regards paragraph 6, it is understood to mean that transnational corporations should fully comply with national legislation in the places where their activities take place and should cooperate with the development strategies of the States in which their activities take place.

In conclusion, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela believes that this resolution will promote increased transparency in all international industrial, financial and trade sectors and will be an effective means of meeting commitments under the United Nations Convention against Corruption and the relevant resolutions.

The President: We have heard the last speaker in explanation of vote.

May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of agenda item 56?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The President: I now invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/62/L.47, circulated under sub-item (b) of agenda item 64, "New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support: Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".

Members will recall that the General Assembly concluded its consideration of agenda item 64 and its sub-items (a) and (b) at its 85th plenary meeting, on 4 March 2008. In order to enable the General Assembly to consider draft resolution A/62/L.47, it will be necessary to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 64. May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to reopen consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 64?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 64 (*continued*)

New Partnership for Africa's Development: progress in implementation and international support

(b) Causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa

Draft resolution (A/62/L.47)

The President: I now give the floor to the representative of Antigua and Barbuda to introduce draft resolution A/62/L.47.

Mr. Hunte (Antigua and Barbuda): It is my honour, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, to introduce to the General Assembly the draft resolution on causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa contained in document A/62/L.47.

Under the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), African countries continue to express their determination and commitment to take control of their own sustainable economic and social development. Furthermore, in 2005, world leaders joined with their African counterparts in reaffirming their commitment to address the special needs of Africa in the 2005 World Summit Outcome document (resolution 60/1). They also jointly recognized that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing.

Mr. Soborun (Mauritius), Vice-President, took the Chair.

African countries have made significant progress in addressing the causes of conflict and promoting sustainable peace on the continent, including through NEPAD, the African Union and other regional and subregional organizations.

The international community now needs to give increased support to these positive trends and advances. In this regard, I am pleased to present this draft resolution to the General Assembly on behalf of the Group of 77 and China. It is a very important draft resolution, which speaks to the importance of conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace on the African continent and underscores the need to develop African human and institutional capacities.

Among other things, the draft resolution notes that conflict prevention and the consolidation of peace would benefit from the coordinated, sustained and integrated efforts of the United Nations system, Member States, regional and subregional organizations and international and regional financial institutions. The synergy between Africa's economic and social development programmes and its peace and security agenda should also be developed.

The draft resolution also calls upon the United Nations system to continue to mainstream the special needs of Africa in all of its normative and operational activities.

My delegation is pleased, on behalf of the Group of 77 and China, to recommend this draft resolution to the General Assembly for adoption. I take this opportunity to thank all members for their support of this draft resolution, and to thank as well those members that have joined the Group in sponsoring it. We invite other delegations to do so.

The Acting President: We shall now proceed to consider draft resolution A/62/L.47. The Assembly will now take action on draft resolution A/62/L.47, entitled "Implementation of the recommendations contained in the report of the Secretary-General on the causes of conflict and the promotion of durable peace and sustainable development in Africa".

I should like to announce that, since the introduction of the draft resolution, the following countries have become sponsors of A/62/L.47: Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Slovenia and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt draft resolution A/62/L.47?

Draft resolution A/62/L.47 was adopted (resolution 62/275).

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (b) of agenda item 64 and agenda item 64 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 7 (*continued*)

Organization of work, adoption of the agenda and allocation of items

The Acting President: I now invite the attention of the General Assembly to document A/62/L.49, circulated under sub-item (g) of agenda item 98, "General and complete disarmament: Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament".

Members will recall that at its 3rd plenary meeting, on 21 September 2007, the General Assembly decided to allocate sub-item (g) of agenda item 98 to the First Committee. In order for the General Assembly to proceed expeditiously with the consideration of the draft decision issued as document A/62/L.49 under this sub-item, may I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to consider sub-item (g) of agenda item 98 directly in the plenary meeting under heading G, "Disarmament"?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: May I further take it that the Assembly agrees to proceed immediately to the consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 98?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 98 (*continued*)

General and complete disarmament

(g) Convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament

Draft decision (A/62/L.49)

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Indonesia to introduce draft decision A/62/L.49.

Mr. Ruddyard (Indonesia): I have the honour to speak on behalf of the States members of the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM).

In accordance with resolution 62/29, adopted by the General Assembly on 5 December 2007, the Open-ended Working Group to Consider the Objectives and Agenda, including the possible establishment of the preparatory committee, for the Fourth Special Session of the General Assembly Devoted to Disarmament (SSOD IV) was to hold an organizational session in order to set a date for its substantive session in 2008 and to submit a report on its work, including possible substantive recommendations, before the end of the sixty-second session of the General Assembly.

However, noting that the Open-ended Working Group could not be convened within the time allocated — namely, within the sixty-second session of the General Assembly — owing to the unavailability of a Chair for the Group, we deemed it necessary to propose a procedural decision. Following informal consultations with delegations, and for the purpose of reporting to the General Assembly before the end of the sixty-second session, as requested by the resolution, we are introducing the draft decision contained in document A/62/L.49 for consideration and adoption by the Assembly.

NAM sees SSOD IV as a useful platform for promoting multilateral negotiations on disarmament and arms limitation measures. Its convening will also reaffirm multilateralism as the core principle in negotiations and strengthen the central role of the United Nations in disarmament and related issues. Therefore, I should like to reaffirm NAM's unwavering support for the convening of the fourth special session of the General Assembly devoted to disarmament. At an appropriate time, NAM will request the convening of the Open-ended Working Group.

The Acting President: The Assembly will now take action on draft decision A/62/L.49. May I take it that the Assembly decides to adopt the draft decision?

Draft decision A/62/L.49 was adopted.

The Acting President: May I take it that it is the wish of the General Assembly to conclude its consideration of sub-item (g) of agenda item 98 and agenda item 98 as a whole?

It was so decided.

Agenda item 18 (*continued*)

Question of Palestine

Letter dated 2 September 2008 from the Chairman of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People addressed to the President of the General Assembly (A/62/951)

The Acting President: By the letter before the Assembly, the President has been informed of the interest of the Government of Nicaragua in becoming a

member of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

As delegations are aware, in accordance with General Assembly resolution 3376 (XXX) of 10 November 1975, members of the Committee are appointed by the General Assembly. The proposal now before the Assembly is that Nicaragua be added to the membership of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People. May I take it that the General Assembly agrees to enlarge the membership of that Committee by appointing Nicaragua as a member of the Committee?

It was so decided.

The Acting President: I now give the floor to the representative of Nicaragua.

Mr. Castellón Duarte (Nicaragua) (*spoke in Spanish*): I wish only to thank the members of the General Assembly for having approved Nicaragua's request to become a member of the Committee on the Exercise of the Inalienable Rights of the Palestinian People.

The Acting President: The Assembly has thus concluded this stage of its consideration of agenda item 18.

The meeting rose at 11.15 a.m.